CATWOMAN

50

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MIRANDA
GANDINI
LOUGHRIDGE

LOVE KILLS

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KAL-EL IS BACK ON EARTH—JUST IN TIME FOR LEX LUTHOR TO DELIVER HIS MOST PERSONAL BLOW YET!

SUPERMAN
ACTION COMICS
#1050

THE NEW SUPERMAN ERA STARTS HERE!

WRITTEN BY
PHILLIP KENNEDY JOHNSON,
TOM TAYLOR,
AND JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

ART BY
MIKE PERKINS,
CLAYTON HENRY,
AND NICK DRAGOTTA

COVER BY
STEVE BEACH

AN OVERSIZE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE LANDING THIS DECEMBER

DC

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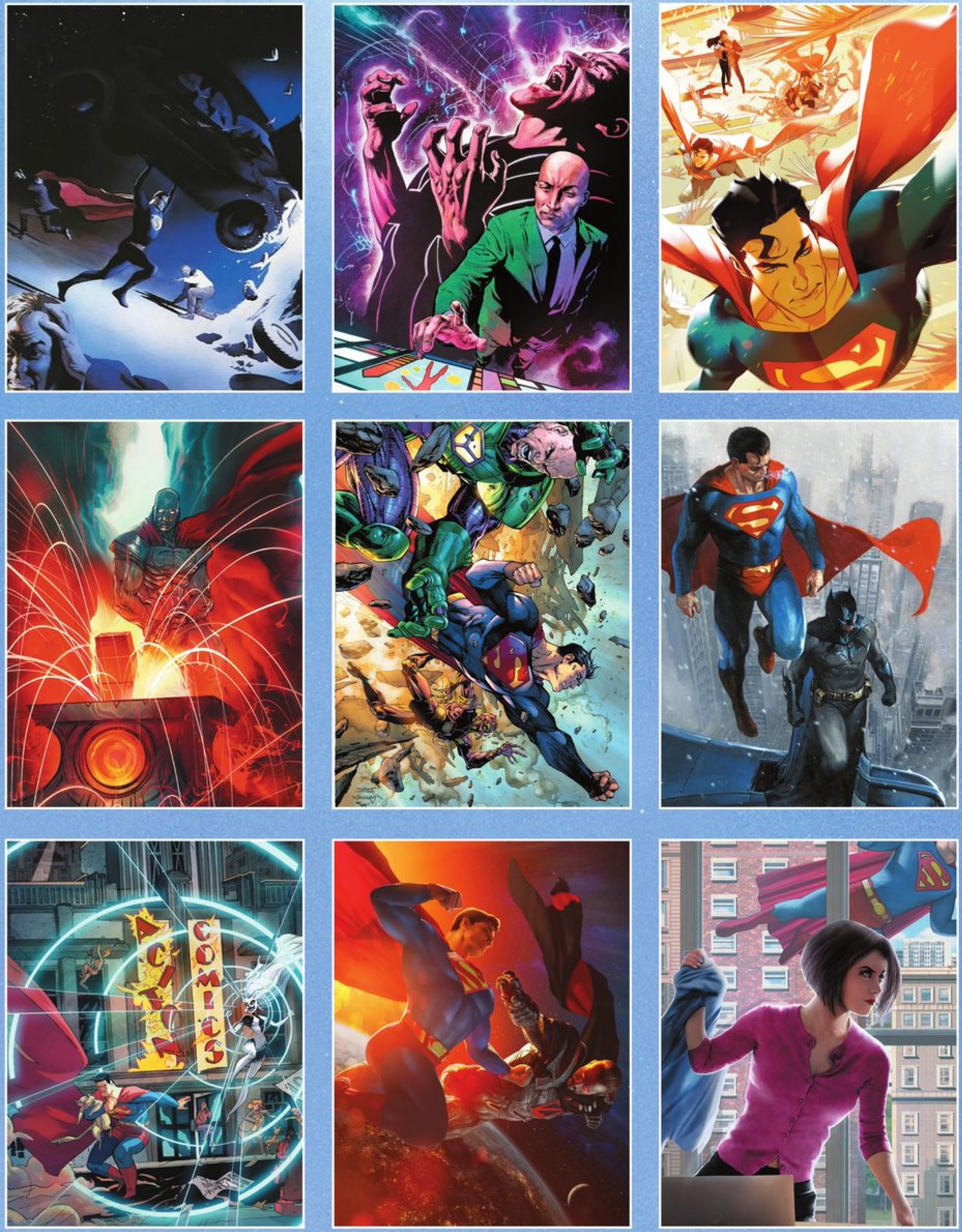
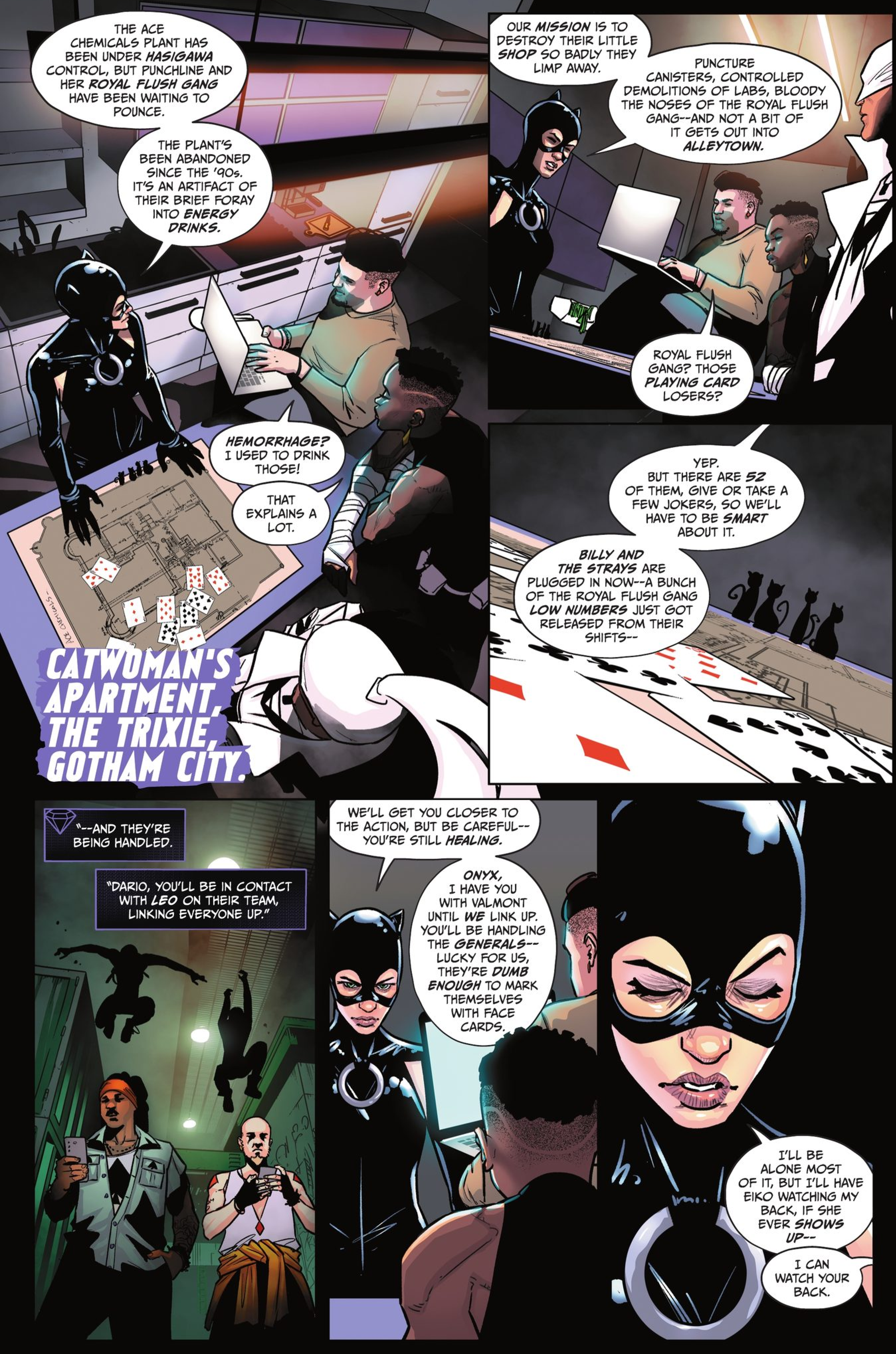
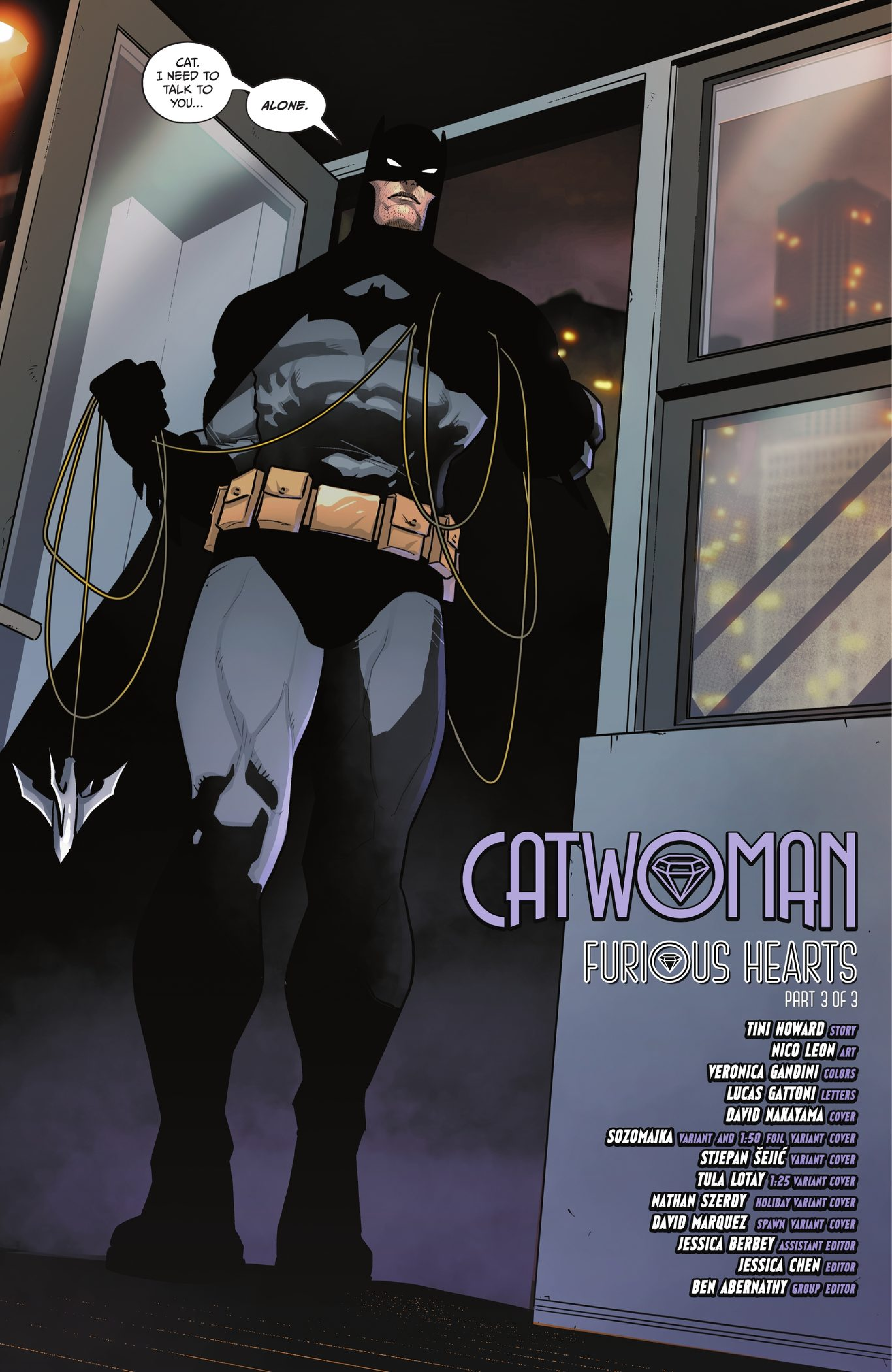
COLLECT ALL 27 STUNNING *ACTION COMICS* #1050 COVERS!

INCLUDING:



VARIANT COVERS BY
ALEX ROSS • MIKE PERKINS • SIMONE DI MEO
RAFAEL SARMENTO • JIM LEE • GABRIELE DELL'OTTO
RILEY ROSSMO • RAHZZAH • NATHAN SZERDY AND MORE!


THE ACE CHEMICALS PLANT HAS BEEN UNDER *HASIGAWA* CONTROL, BUT PUNCHLINE AND HER *ROYAL FLUSH GANG* HAVE BEEN WAITING TO POUNCE.
THE PLANT'S BEEN ABANDONED SINCE THE '90s. IT'S AN ARTIFACT OF THEIR BRIEF FORAY INTO *ENERGY DRINKS.*
HEMORRHAGE? I USED TO DRINK THOSE!
THAT EXPLAINS A LOT.
ACE CHEMICALS
CATWOMAN'S APARTMENT, THE TRIXIE, GOTHAM CITY.
OUR *MISSION* IS TO DESTROY THEIR LITTLE *SHOP* SO BADLY THEY LIMP AWAY.
PUNCTURE CANISTERS, CONTROLLED DEMOLITIONS OF LABS, BLOODY THE NOSES OF THE ROYAL FLUSH GANG--AND NOT A BIT OF IT GETS OUT INTO *ALLEYTOWN.*
ROYAL FLUSH GANG? THOSE *PLAYING CARD* LOSERS?
YEP. BUT THERE ARE *52* OF THEM, GIVE OR TAKE A FEW JOKERS, SO WE'LL HAVE TO BE *SMART* ABOUT IT.
BILLY AND THE STRAYS ARE PLUGGED IN NOW--A BUNCH OF THE ROYAL FLUSH GANG *LOW NUMBERS* JUST GOT RELEASED FROM THEIR SHIFTS--
"--AND THEY'RE BEING HANDLED.
"DARIO, YOU'LL BE IN CONTACT WITH *LEO* ON THEIR TEAM, LINKING EVERYONE UP."
WE'LL GET YOU CLOSER TO THE ACTION, BUT BE CAREFUL--YOU'RE STILL *HEALING.*
ONYX, I HAVE YOU WITH VALMONT UNTIL *WE* LINK UP. YOU'LL BE HANDLING THE *GENERALS*--LUCKY FOR US, THEY'RE *DUMB ENOUGH* TO MARK THEMSELVES WITH FACE CARDS.
I'LL BE ALONE MOST OF IT, BUT I'LL HAVE EIKO WATCHING MY BACK, IF SHE EVER *SHOWS UP*--
I CAN WATCH YOUR BACK.


CAT. I NEED TO TALK TO YOU...
ALONE.

CATWOMAN

FURIOUS HEARTS

PART 3 OF 3

TINI HOWARD STORY
NICO LEON ART
VERONICA GANDINI COLORS
LUCAS GATTONI LETTERS
DAVID NAKAYAMA COVER
SOZOMAIKA VARIANT AND 1:50 FOIL VARIANT COVER
STJEPAN ŠEJIĆ VARIANT COVER
TULA LOTAY 1:25 VARIANT COVER
NATHAN SZERDY HOLIDAY VARIANT COVER
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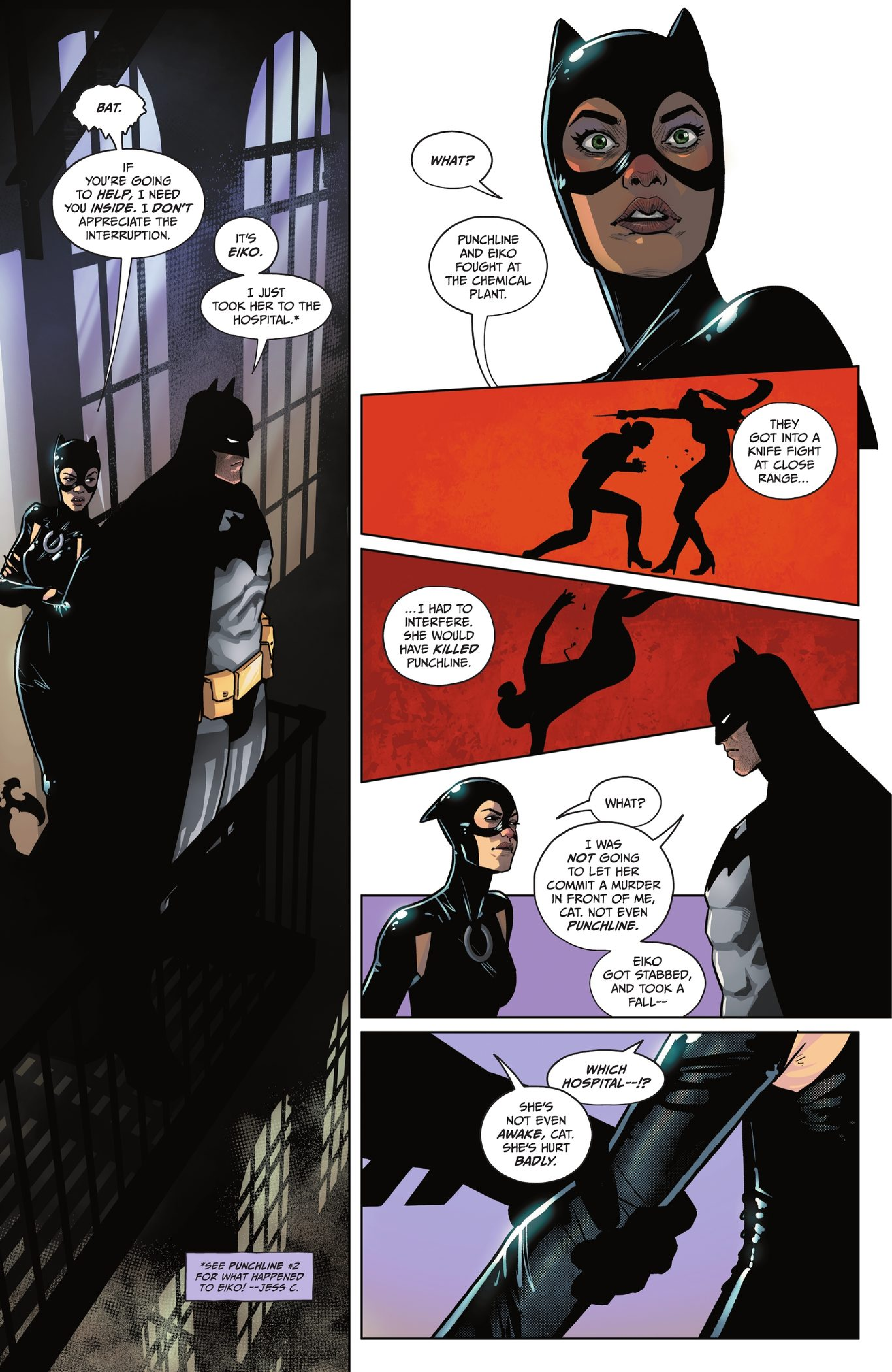
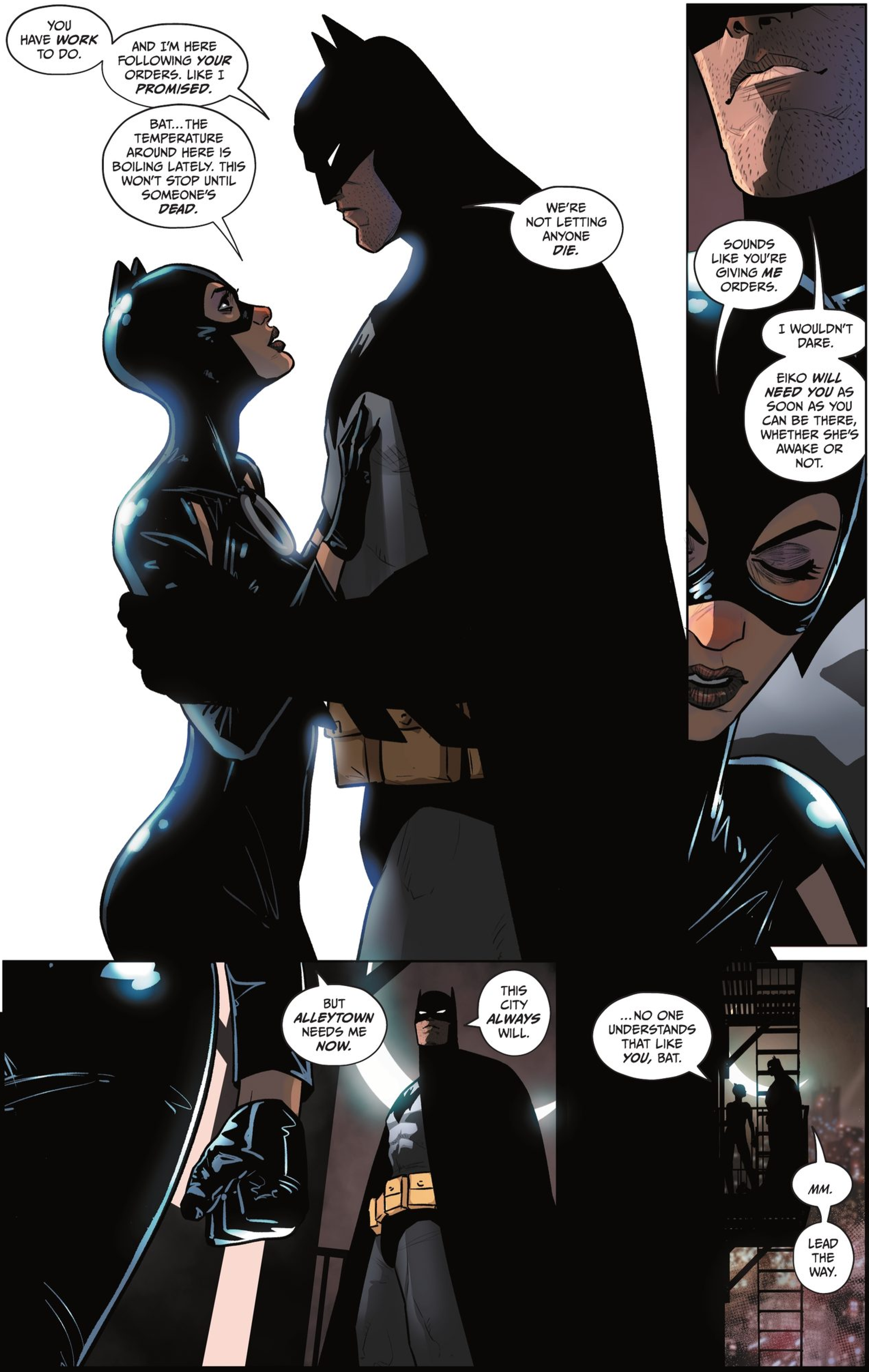
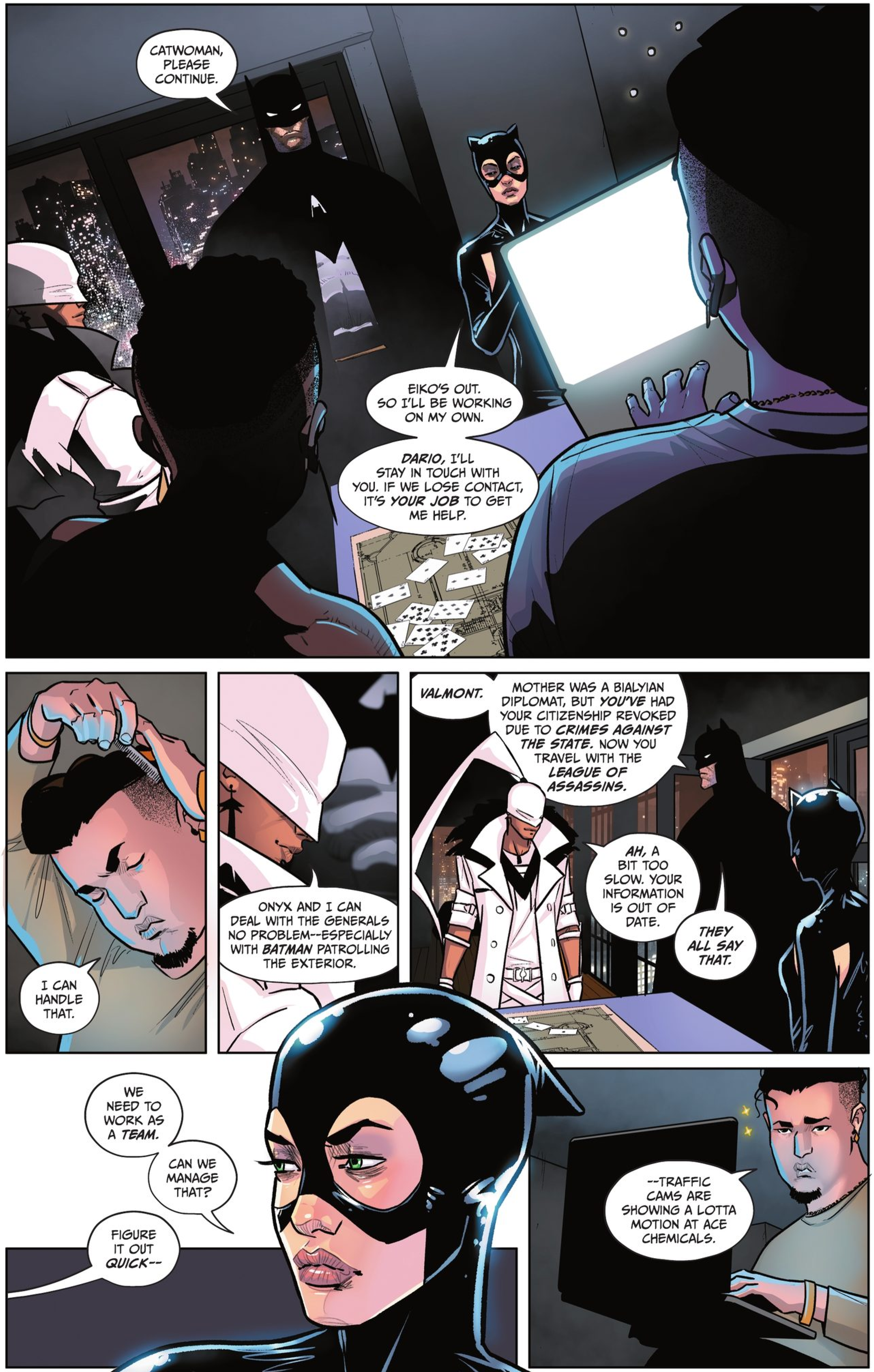
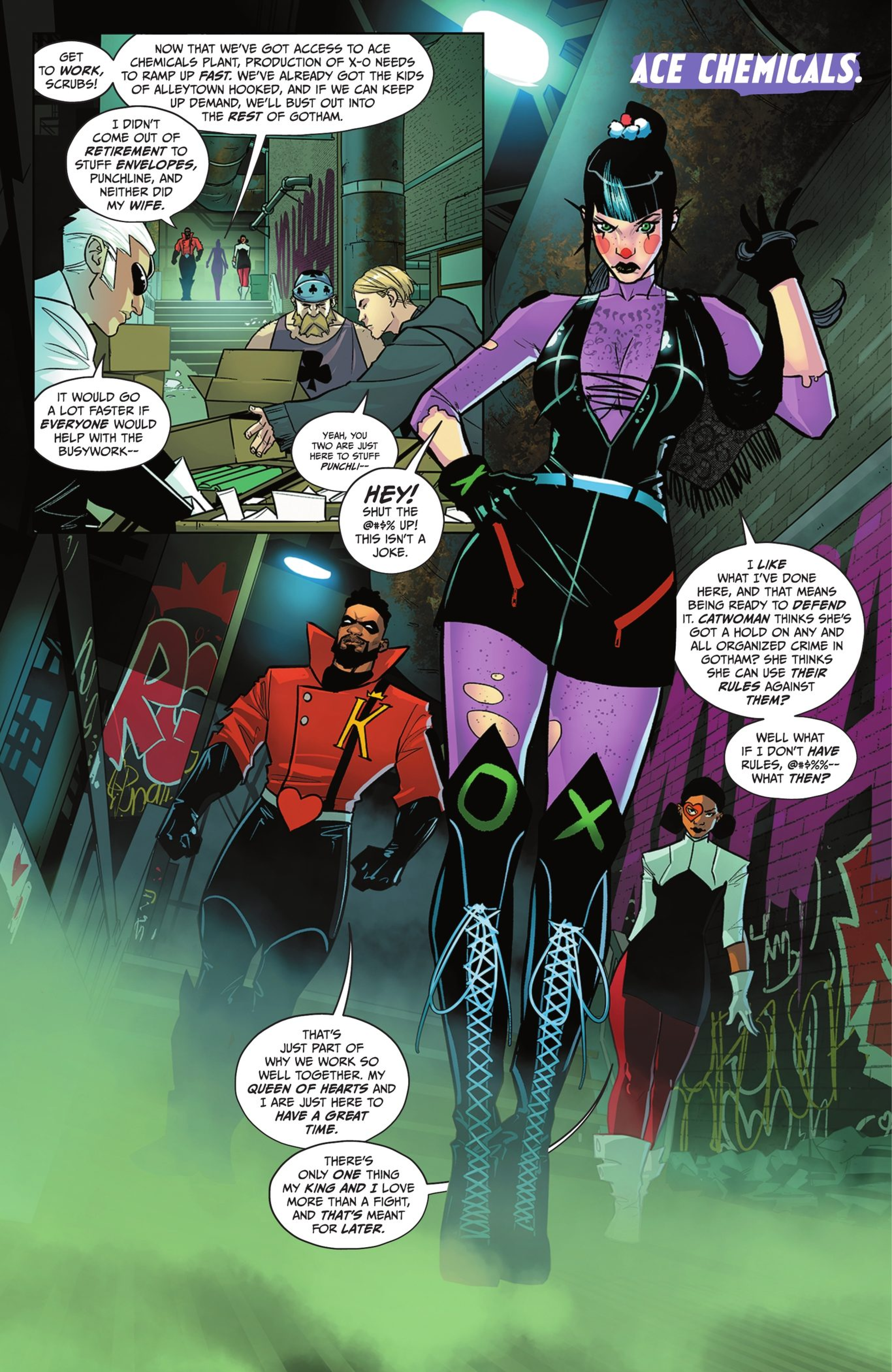
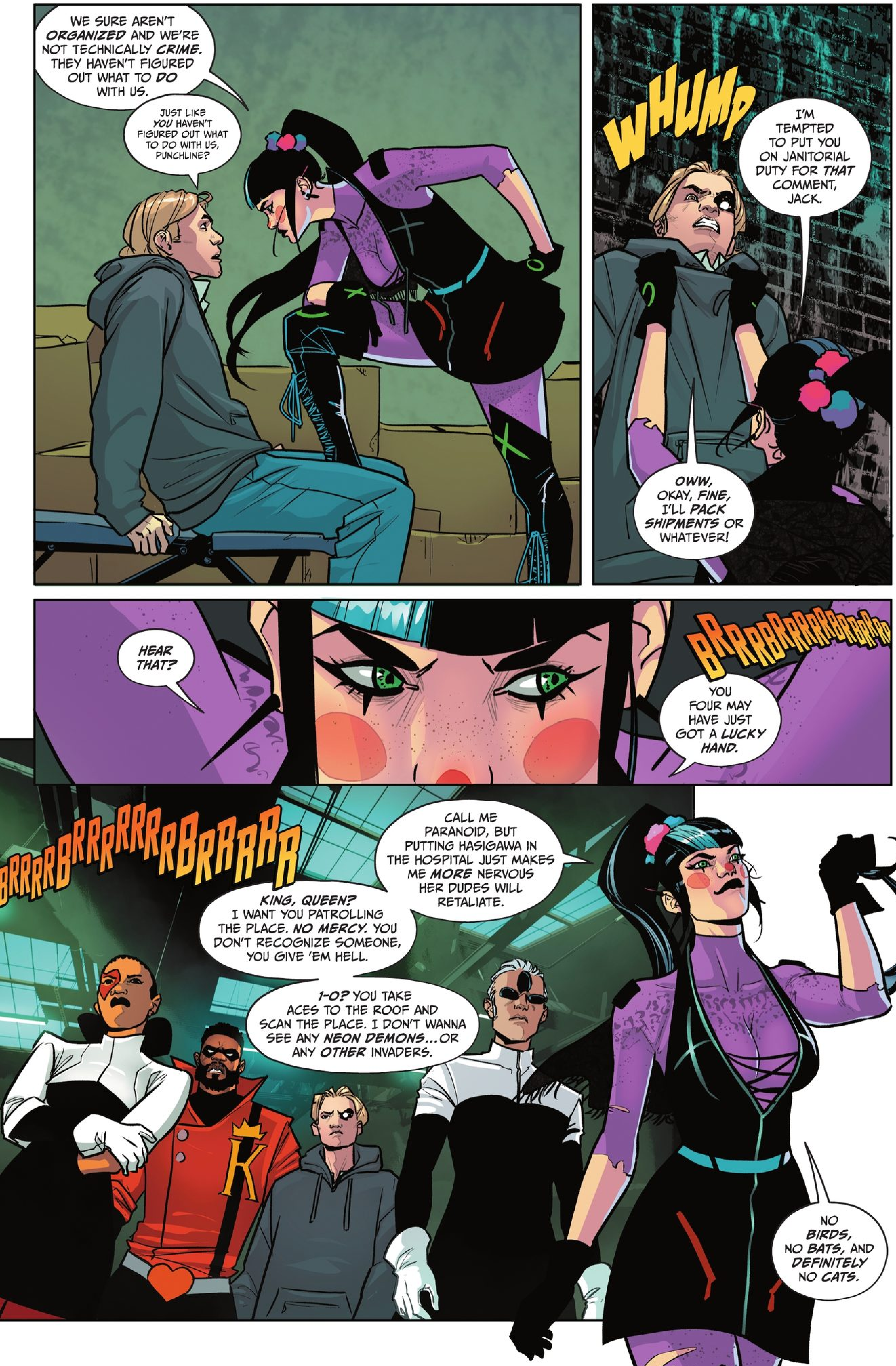
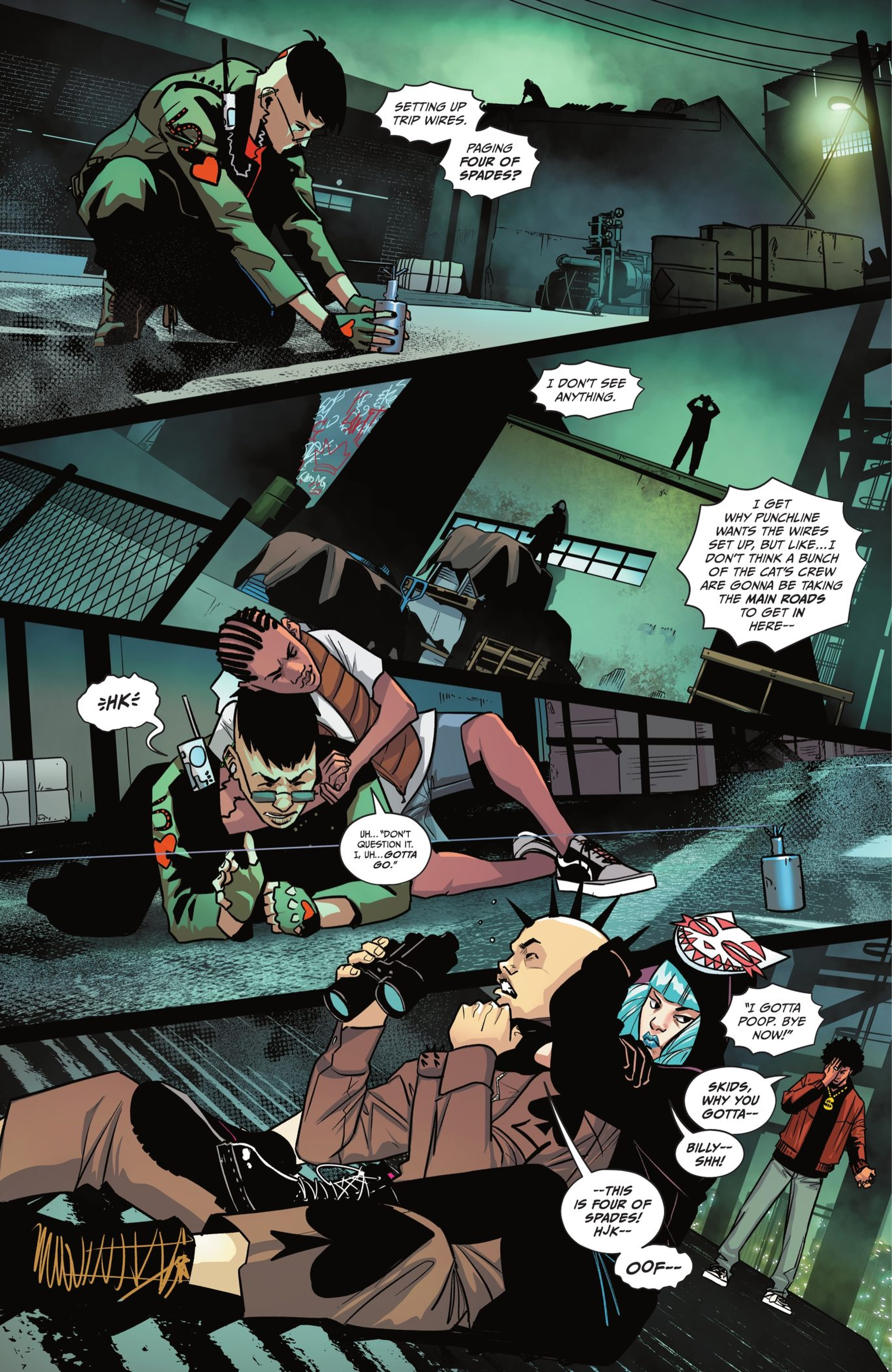

BAT.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO HELP, I NEED YOU INSIDE. I DON'T APPRECIATE THE INTERRUPTION.
IT'S EIKO.
I JUST TOOK HER TO THE HOSPITAL.*
*SEE PUNCHLINE #2 FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO EIKO! --JESS C.
WHAT?
PUNCHLINE AND EIKO FOUGHT AT THE CHEMICAL PLANT.
THEY GOT INTO A KNIFE FIGHT AT CLOSE RANGE...
...I HAD TO INTERFERE. SHE WOULD HAVE KILLED PUNCHLINE.
WHAT?
I WAS NOT GOING TO LET HER COMMIT A MURDER IN FRONT OF ME, CAT. NOT EVEN PUNCHLINE.
EIKO GOT STABBED, AND TOOK A FALL--
WHICH HOSPITAL--!?
SHE'S NOT EVEN AWAKE, CAT. SHE'S HURT BADLY.

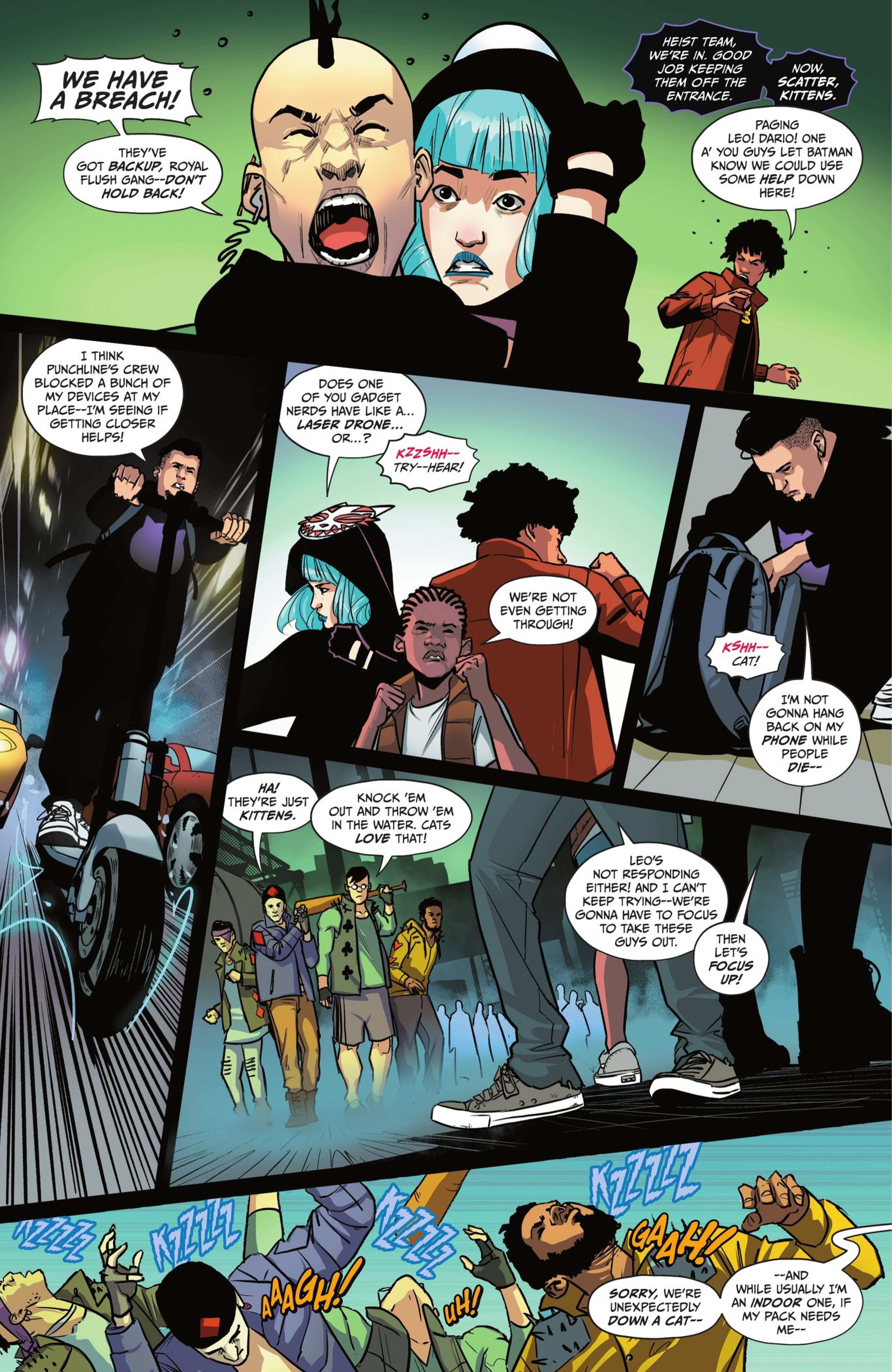

YOU HAVE *WORK* TO DO.
AND I'M HERE FOLLOWING *YOUR* ORDERS. LIKE I *PROMISED.*
BAT... THE TEMPERATURE AROUND HERE IS BOILING LATELY. THIS WON'T STOP UNTIL SOMEONE'S *DEAD.*
WE'RE NOT LETTING ANYONE *DIE.*
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GIVING *ME* ORDERS.
I WOULDN'T DARE.
EIKO *WILL NEED YOU* AS SOON AS YOU CAN BE THERE, WHETHER SHE'S AWAKE OR NOT.
BUT *ALLEYTOWN* NEEDS ME *NOW.*
THIS CITY *ALWAYS* WILL.
...NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THAT LIKE *YOU,* BAT.
MM.
LEAD THE WAY.

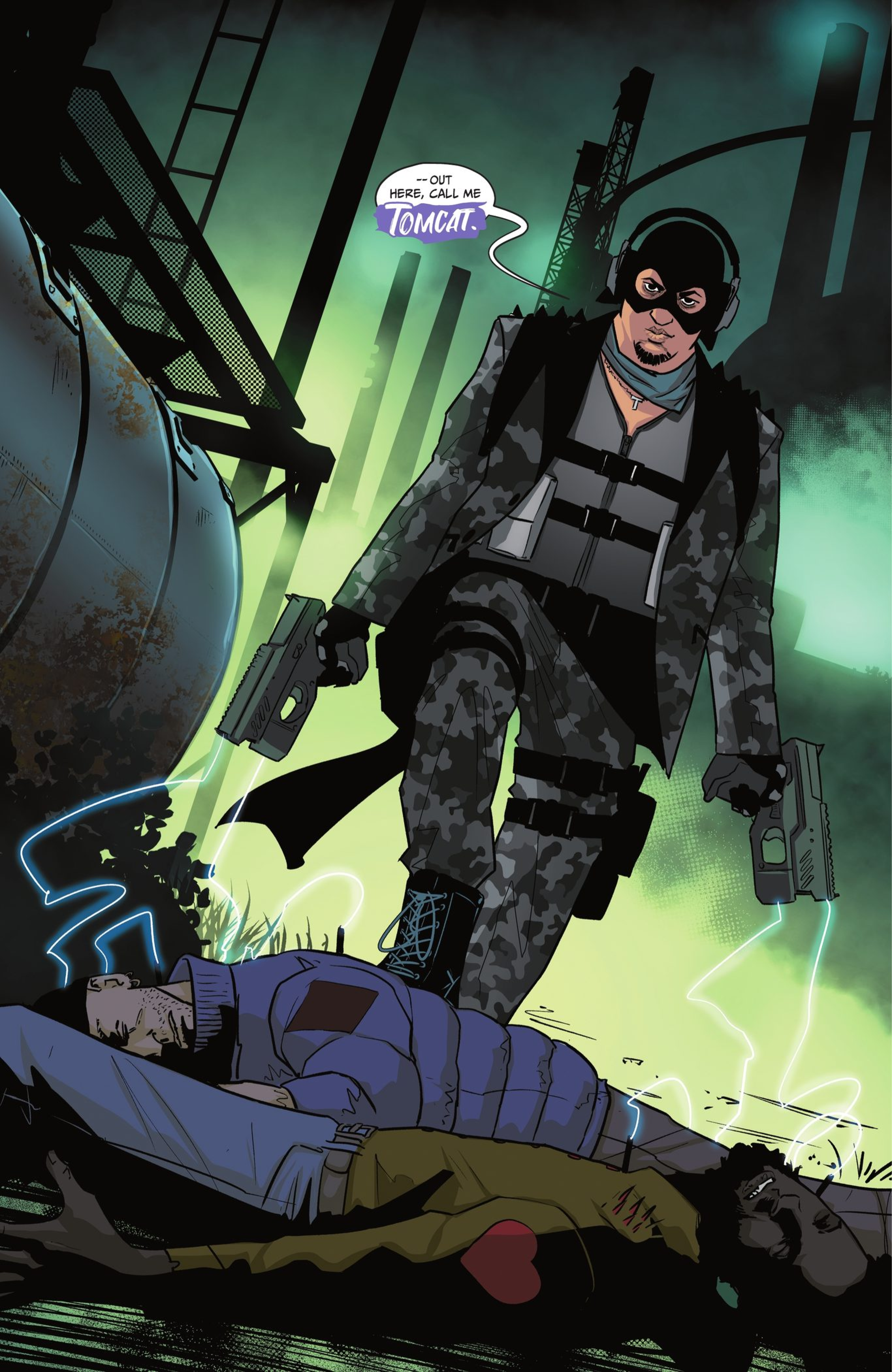

CATWOMAN, PLEASE CONTINUE.
EIKO'S OUT. SO I'LL BE WORKING ON MY OWN.
DARIO, I'LL STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU. IF WE LOSE CONTACT, IT'S *YOUR JOB* TO GET ME HELP.
I CAN HANDLE THAT.
ONYX AND I CAN DEAL WITH THE GENERALS NO PROBLEM--ESPECIALLY WITH *BATMAN* PATROLLING THE EXTERIOR.
VALMONT.
MOTHER WAS A BIALYIAN DIPLOMAT, BUT *YOU'VE* HAD YOUR CITIZENSHIP REVOKED DUE TO *CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE.* NOW YOU TRAVEL WITH THE *LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS.*
AH, A BIT TOO SLOW. YOUR INFORMATION IS OUT OF DATE.
THEY ALL SAY THAT.
WE NEED TO WORK AS A *TEAM.*
CAN WE MANAGE THAT?
FIGURE IT OUT *QUICK--*
--TRAFFIC CAMS ARE SHOWING A LOTTA MOTION AT ACE CHEMICALS.

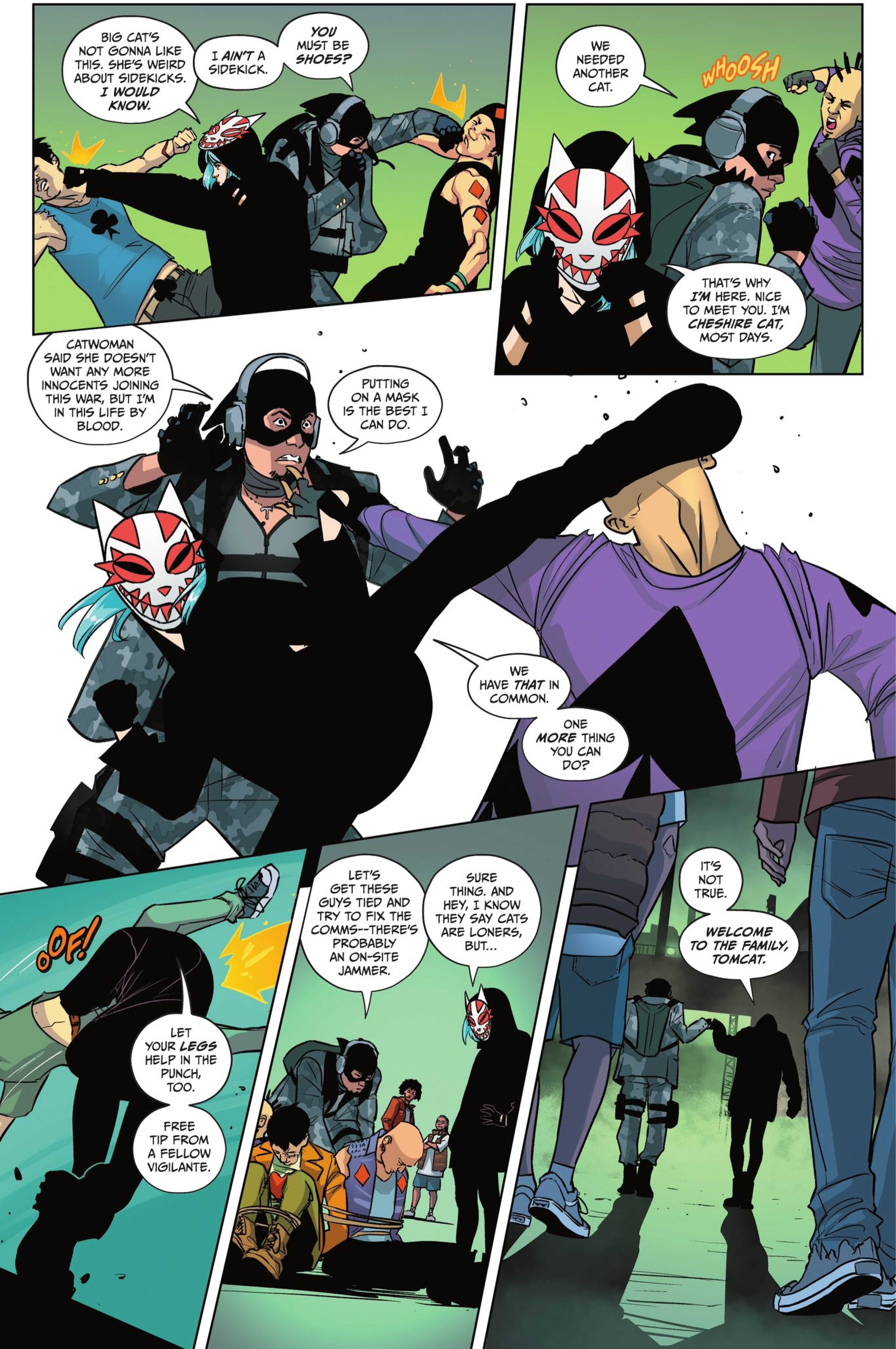

ACE CHEMICALS.
GET TO WORK, SCRUBS!
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT ACCESS TO ACE CHEMICALS PLANT, PRODUCTION OF X-O NEEDS TO RAMP UP FAST. WE'VE ALREADY GOT THE KIDS OF ALLEYTOWN HOOKED, AND IF WE CAN KEEP UP DEMAND, WE'LL BUST OUT INTO THE REST OF GOTHAM.
I DIDN'T COME OUT OF RETIREMENT TO STUFF ENVELOPES, PUNCHLINE, AND NEITHER DID MY WIFE.
IT WOULD GO A LOT FASTER IF EVERYONE WOULD HELP WITH THE BUSYWORK--
YEAH, YOU TWO ARE JUST HERE TO STUFF PUNCHLI--
HEY! SHUT THE @#$% UP! THIS ISN'T A JOKE.
I LIKE WHAT I'VE DONE HERE, AND THAT MEANS BEING READY TO DEFEND IT. CATWOMAN THINKS SHE'S GOT A HOLD ON ANY AND ALL ORGANIZED CRIME IN GOTHAM? SHE THINKS SHE CAN USE THEIR RULES AGAINST THEM?
WELL WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE RULES, @#$%%-- WHAT THEN?
THAT'S JUST PART OF WHY WE WORK SO WELL TOGETHER. MY QUEEN OF HEARTS AND I ARE JUST HERE TO HAVE A GREAT TIME.
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING MY KING AND I LOVE MORE THAN A FIGHT, AND THAT'S MEANT FOR LATER.

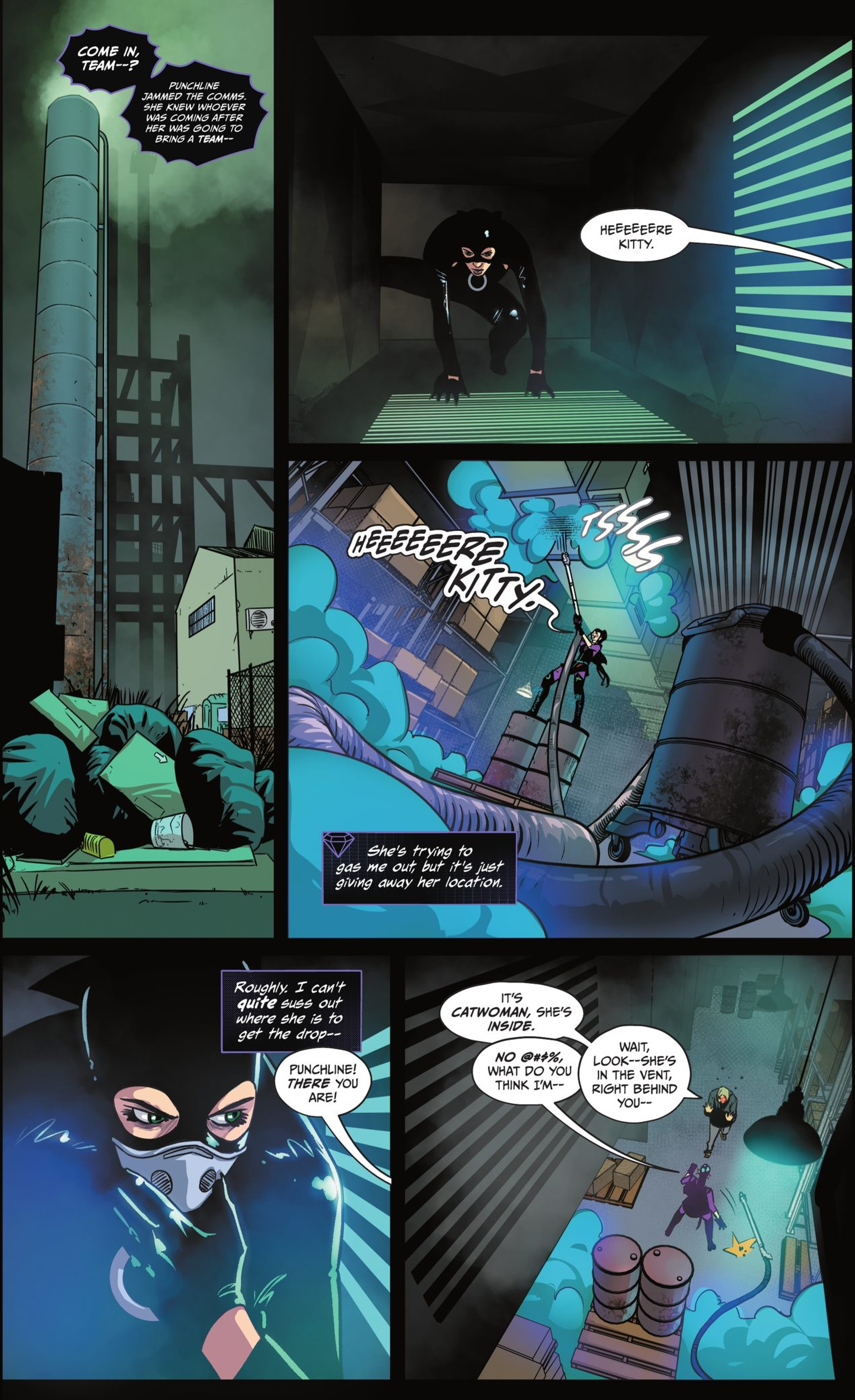

WE SURE AREN'T ORGANIZED AND WE'RE NOT TECHNICALLY CRIME. THEY HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT TO DO WITH US.
JUST LIKE YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT TO DO WITH US, PUNCHLINE?
WHUMP
I'M TEMPTED TO PUT YOU ON JANITORIAL DUTY FOR THAT COMMENT, JACK.
OWW, OKAY, FINE, I'LL PACK SHIPMENTS OR WHATEVER!
HEAR THAT?
BRRRBRRRRRBRBRRR
YOU FOUR MAY HAVE JUST GOT A LUCKY HAND.
BRRRRBRRRRRRRBRRRRR
CALL ME PARANOID, BUT PUTTING HASIGAWA IN THE HOSPITAL JUST MAKES ME MORE NERVOUS HER DUDES WILL RETALIATE.
KING, QUEEN? I WANT YOU PATROLLING THE PLACE. NO MERCY. YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE SOMEONE, YOU GIVE 'EM HELL.
1-0? YOU TAKE ACES TO THE ROOF AND SCAN THE PLACE. I DON'T WANNA SEE ANY NEON DEMONS...OR ANY OTHER INVADERS.
NO BIRDS, NO BATS, AND DEFINITELY NO CATS.

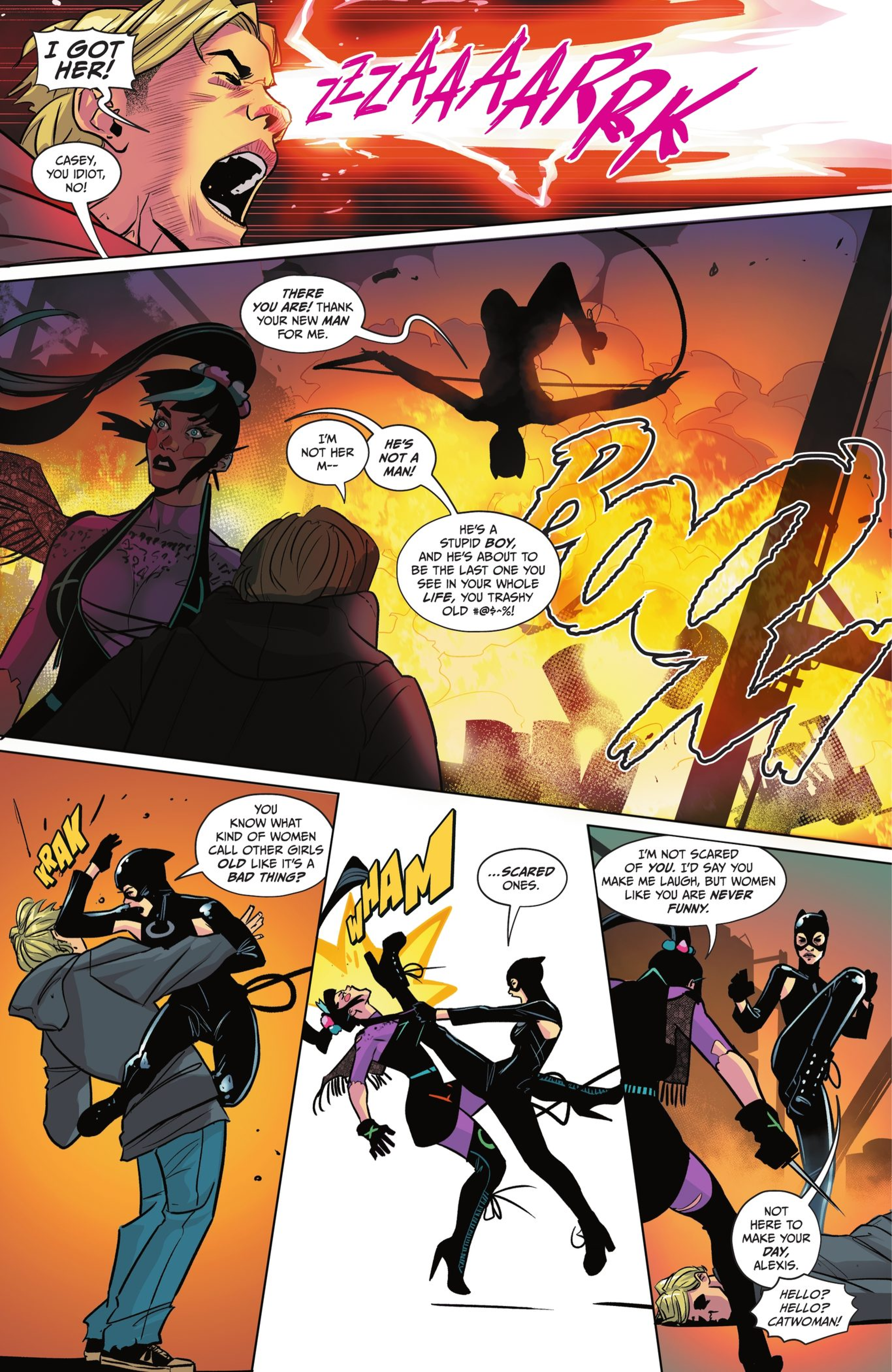

SETTING UP TRIP WIRES.
PAGING **FOUR OF SPADES?**
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
I GET WHY PUNCHLINE WANTS THE WIRES SET UP, BUT LIKE...I DON'T THINK A BUNCH OF THE CAT'S CREW ARE GONNA BE TAKING THE **MAIN ROADS** TO GET IN HERE--
HK
UH... "DON'T QUESTION IT. I, UH...**GOTTA GO.**"
"I GOTTA POOP. BYE NOW!"
SKIDS, WHY YOU GOTTA--
BILLY-- SHH!
--THIS IS FOUR OF SPADES! HJK--
OOF--

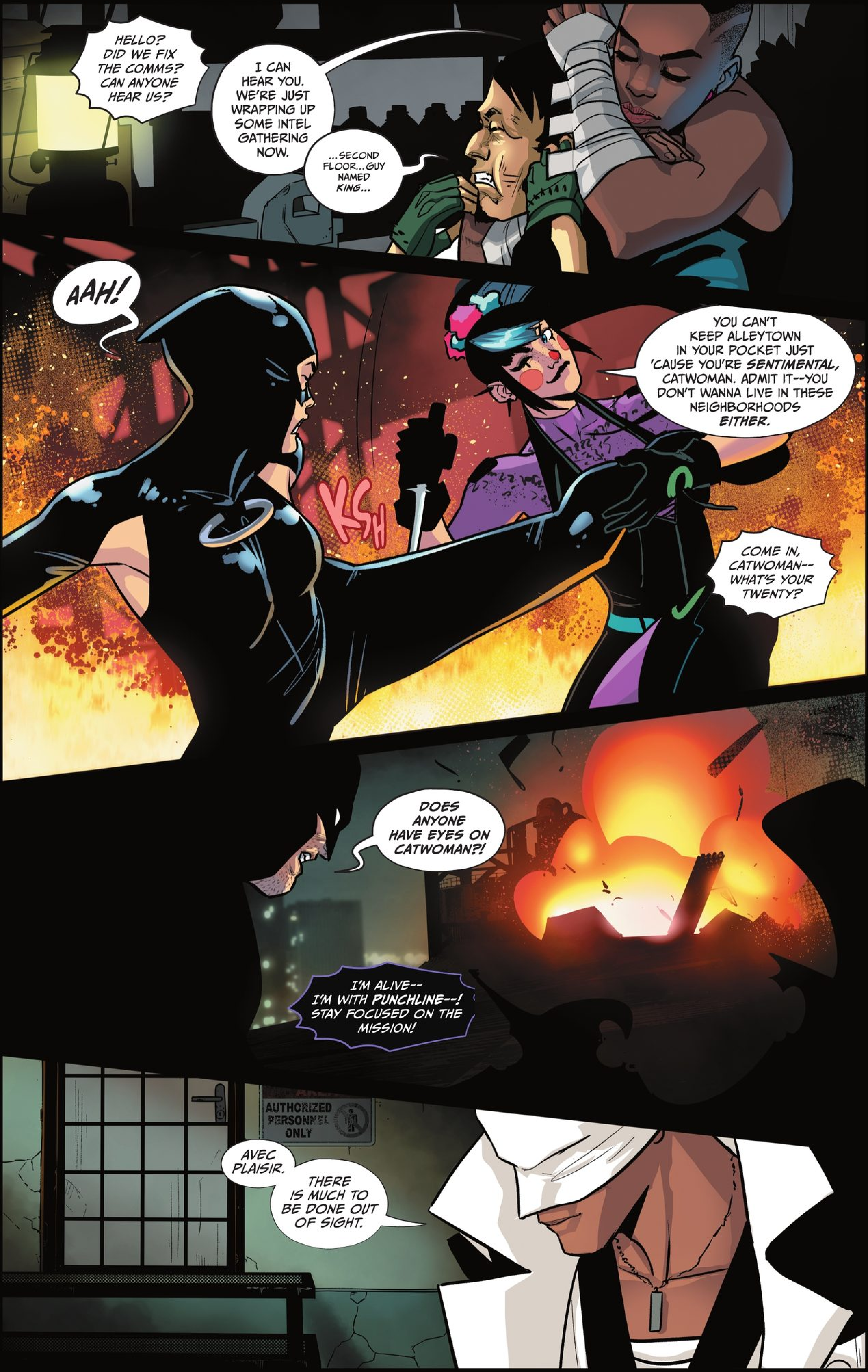

WE HAVE A BREACH!
THEY'VE GOT *BACKUP*, ROYAL FLUSH GANG--*DON'T HOLD BACK!*
HEIST TEAM, WE'RE IN. GOOD JOB KEEPING THEM OFF THE ENTRANCE.
NOW, SCATTER, KITTENS.
PAGING LEO! DARIO! ONE A' YOU GUYS LET BATMAN KNOW WE COULD USE SOME *HELP* DOWN HERE!
I THINK PUNCHLINE'S CREW BLOCKED A BUNCH OF MY DEVICES AT MY PLACE--I'M SEEING IF GETTING CLOSER HELPS!
DOES ONE OF YOU GADGET NERDS HAVE LIKE A... *LASER DRONE*... OR...?
KZZSHH-- TRY--HEAR!
WE'RE NOT EVEN GETTING THROUGH!
KSHH-- CAT!
I'M NOT GONNA HANG BACK ON MY *PHONE* WHILE PEOPLE *DIE*--
HA! THEY'RE JUST *KITTENS.*
KNOCK 'EM OUT AND THROW 'EM IN THE WATER. CATS *LOVE* THAT!
LEO'S NOT RESPONDING EITHER! AND I CAN'T KEEP TRYING--WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO FOCUS TO TAKE THESE GUYS OUT.
THEN LET'S *FOCUS UP!*
KZZZZZ
KZZZZZ
KZZZZZ
KZZZZZ
AAAGH!
UH!
GAAH!
SORRY, WE'RE UNEXPECTEDLY *DOWN A CAT*--
--AND WHILE USUALLY I'M AN *INDOOR* ONE, IF MY PACK NEEDS ME--

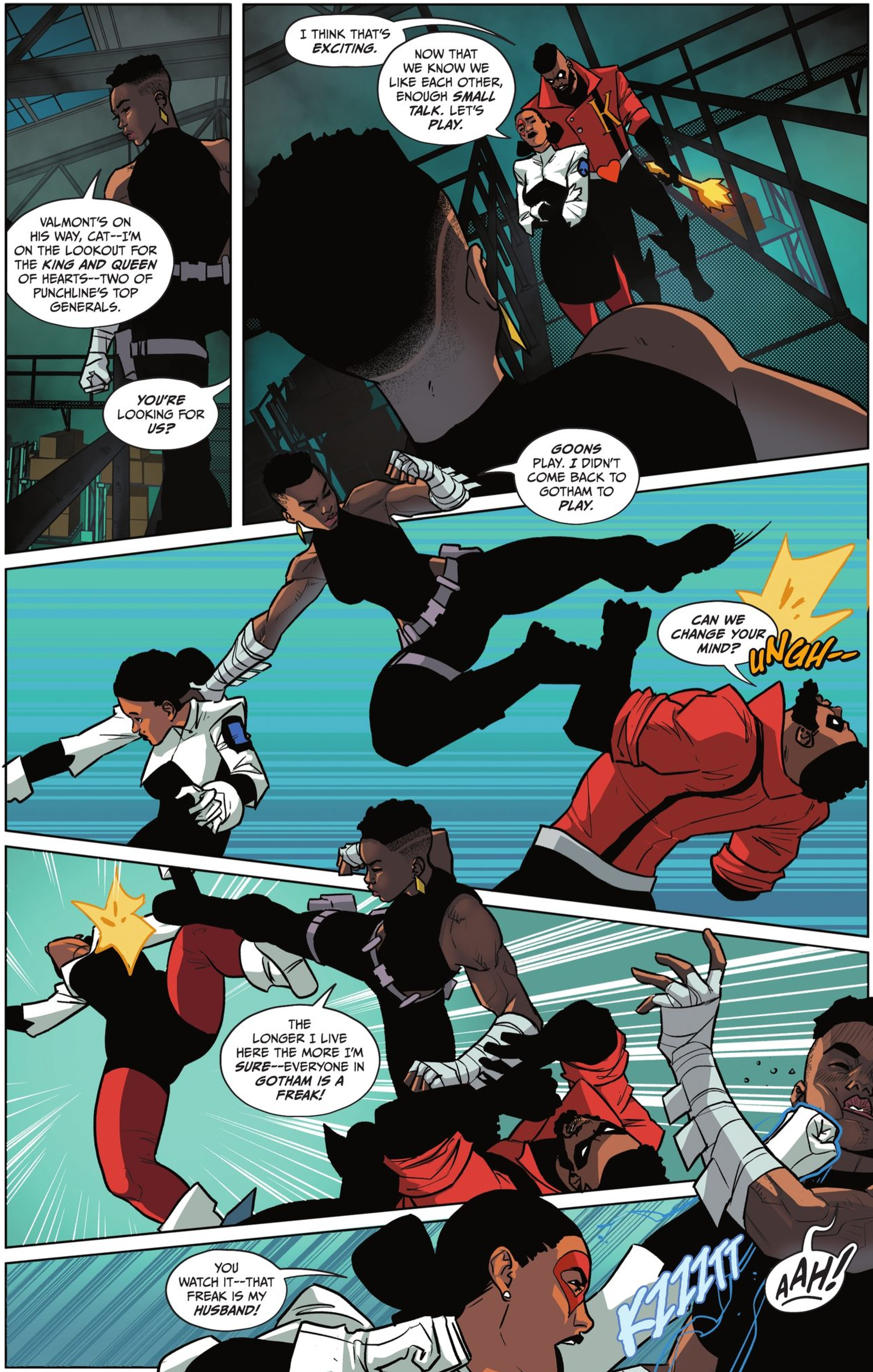

--OUT HERE, CALL ME TOMCAT.

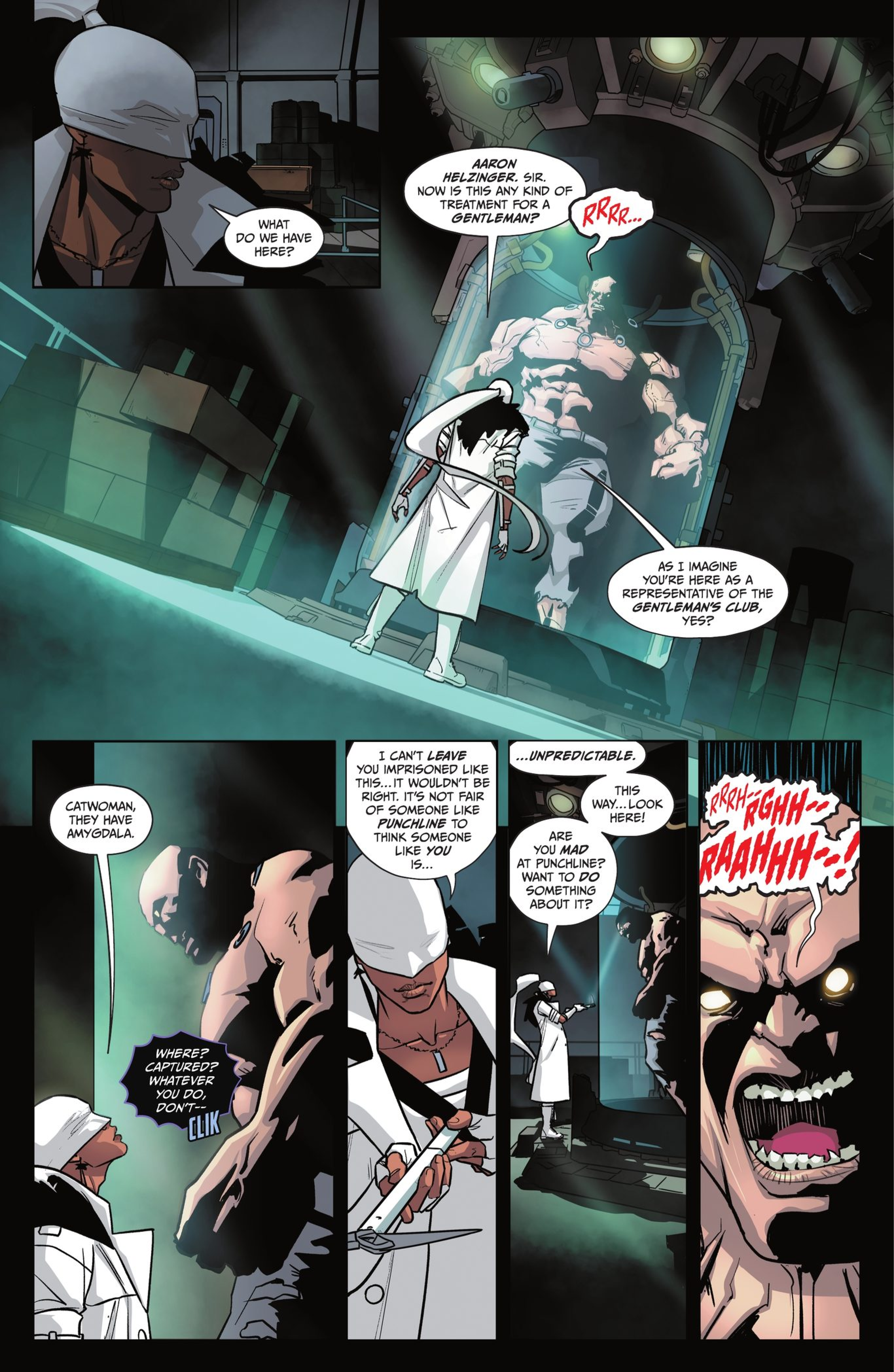

BIG CAT'S NOT GONNA LIKE THIS. SHE'S WEIRD ABOUT SIDEKICKS. ***I WOULD KNOW.***
I ***AIN'T*** A SIDEKICK.
YOU MUST BE ***SHOES?***
WE NEEDED ANOTHER CAT.
WHOOSH
THAT'S WHY ***I'M*** HERE. NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M ***CHESHIRE CAT,*** MOST DAYS.
CATWOMAN SAID SHE DOESN'T WANT ANY MORE INNOCENTS JOINING THIS WAR, BUT I'M IN THIS LIFE BY BLOOD.
PUTTING ON A MASK IS THE BEST I CAN DO.
WE HAVE ***THAT*** IN COMMON.
ONE ***MORE*** THING YOU CAN DO?
OOF!
LET YOUR ***LEGS*** HELP IN THE PUNCH, TOO.
FREE TIP FROM A FELLOW VIGILANTE.
LET'S GET THESE GUYS TIED AND TRY TO FIX THE COMMS--THERE'S PROBABLY AN ON-SITE JAMMER.
SURE THING. AND HEY, I KNOW THEY SAY CATS ARE LONERS, BUT...
IT'S NOT TRUE.
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, TOMCAT.

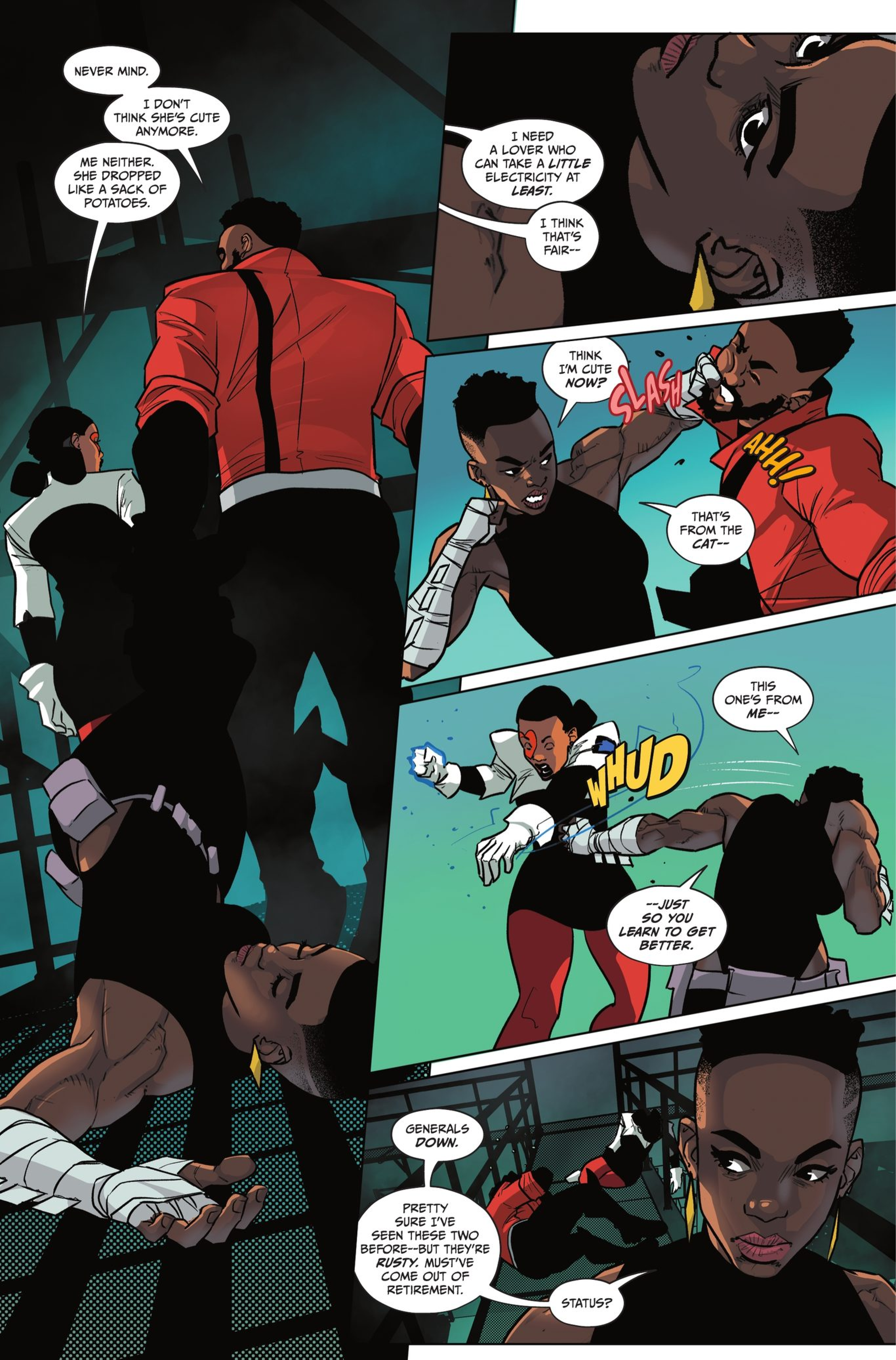

COME IN, TEAM--?
PUNCHLINE JAMMED THE COMMS. SHE KNEW WHOEVER WAS COMING AFTER HER WAS GOING TO BRING A *TEAM*--
HEEEEEERE KITTY.
HEEEEEERE KITTY.
TSSSSS
She's trying to gas me out, but it's just giving away her location.
Roughly. I can't *quite* suss out where she is to get the drop--
PUNCHLINE! *THERE* YOU ARE!
IT'S *CATWOMAN*, SHE'S *INSIDE*.
NO @#$%, WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M--
WAIT, LOOK--SHE'S IN THE VENT, RIGHT BEHIND YOU--

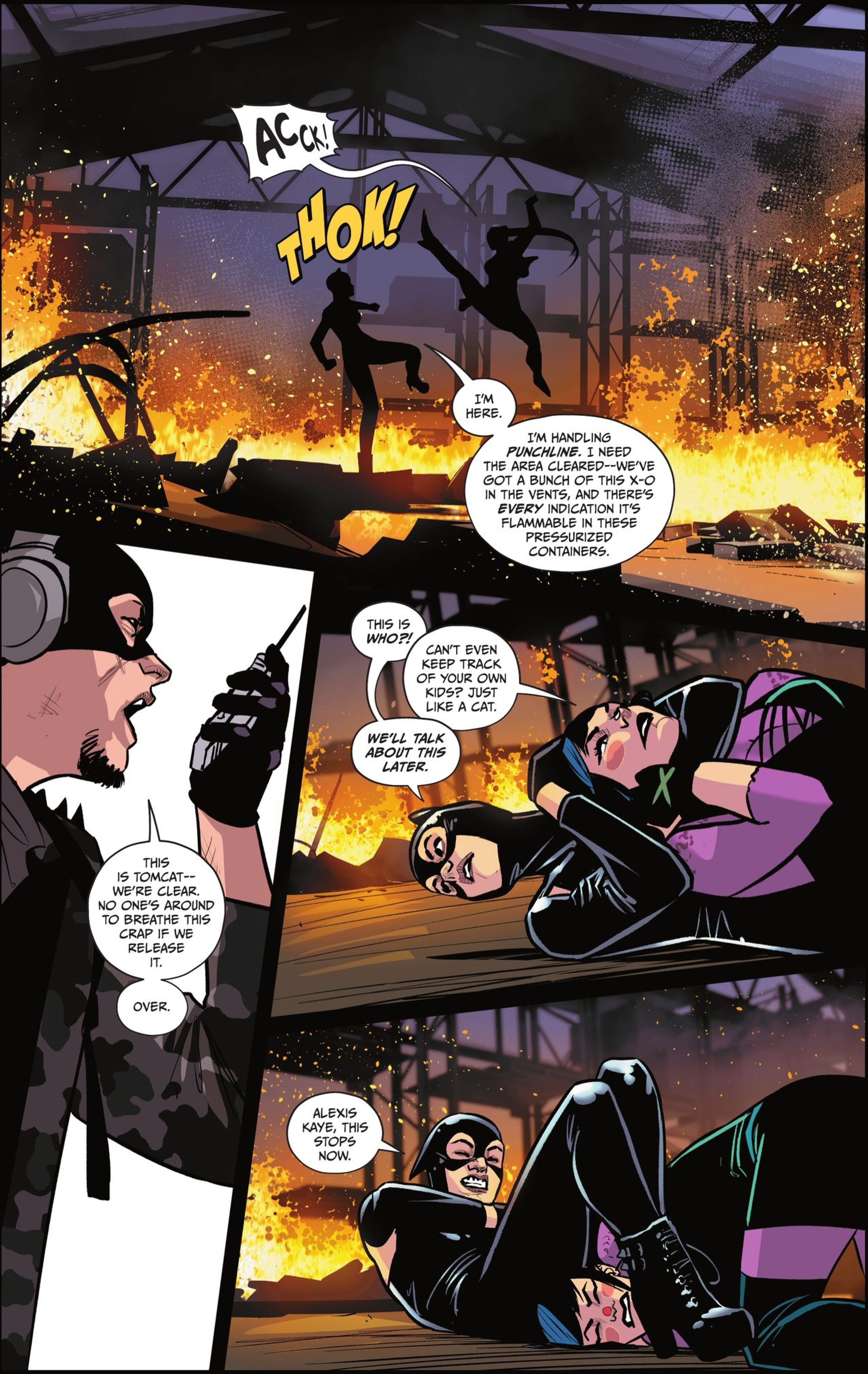

I GOT HER!
CASEY, YOU IDIOT, NO!
ZZZAAAAARRRK
THERE YOU ARE! THANK YOUR NEW MAN FOR ME.
I'M NOT HER M--
HE'S NOT A MAN!
HE'S A STUPID BOY, AND HE'S ABOUT TO BE THE LAST ONE YOU SEE IN YOUR WHOLE LIFE, YOU TRASHY OLD #@$~%!
BOOM
KRAK
YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF WOMEN CALL OTHER GIRLS OLD LIKE IT'S A BAD THING?
WHAM
...SCARED ONES.
I'M NOT SCARED OF YOU. I'D SAY YOU MAKE ME LAUGH, BUT WOMEN LIKE YOU ARE NEVER FUNNY.
NOT HERE TO MAKE YOUR DAY, ALEXIS.
HELLO? HELLO? CATWOMAN!

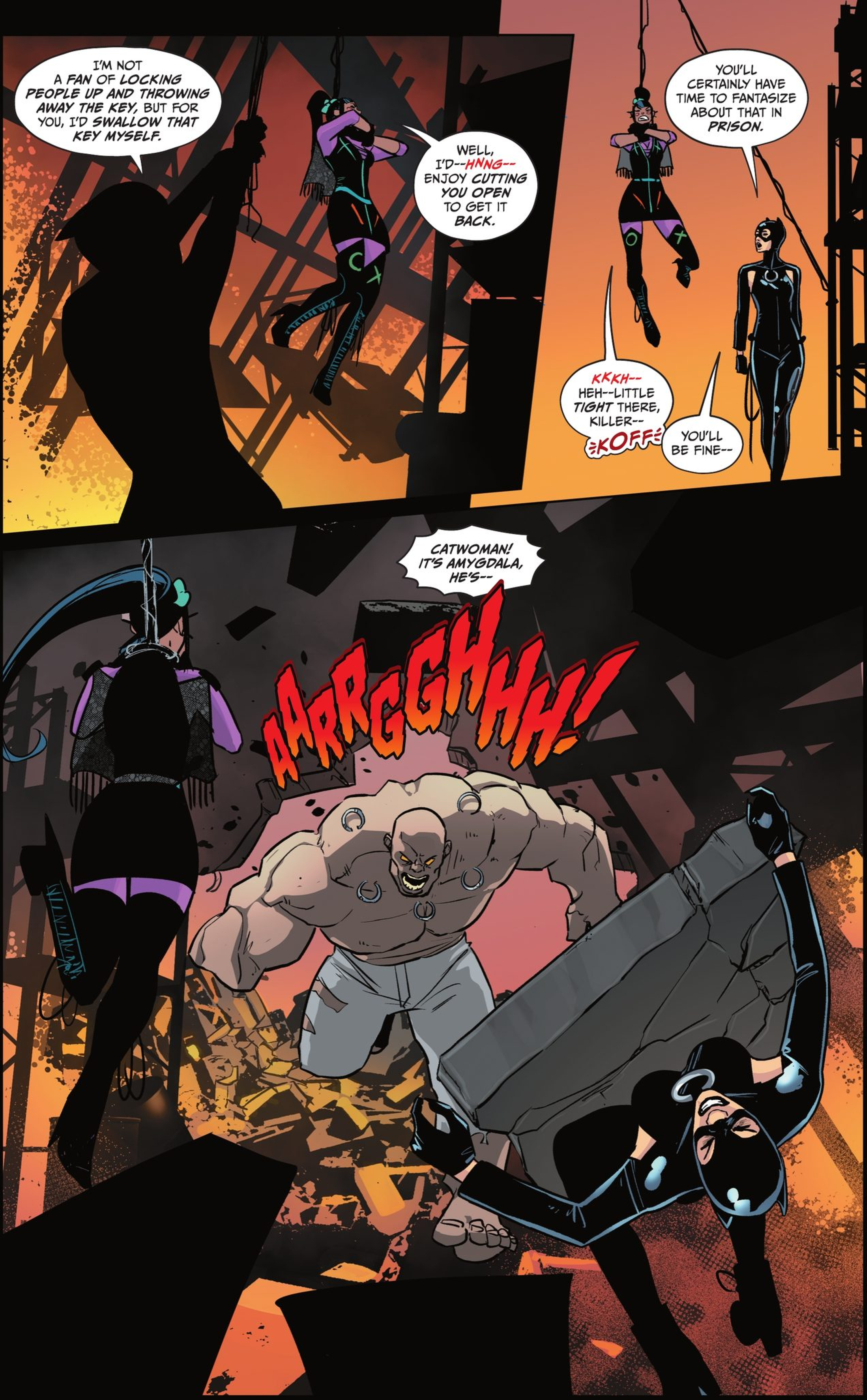

HELLO? DID WE FIX THE COMMS? CAN ANYONE HEAR US?
I CAN HEAR YOU. WE'RE JUST WRAPPING UP SOME INTEL GATHERING NOW.
...SECOND FLOOR...GUY NAMED KING...
AAH!
YOU CAN'T KEEP ALLEYTOWN IN YOUR POCKET JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE SENTIMENTAL, CATWOMAN. ADMIT IT--YOU DON'T WANNA LIVE IN THESE NEIGHBORHOODS EITHER.
KSH
COME IN, CATWOMAN-- WHAT'S YOUR TWENTY?
DOES ANYONE HAVE EYES ON CATWOMAN?!
I'M ALIVE-- I'M WITH PUNCHLINE--! STAY FOCUSED ON THE MISSION!
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
AVEC PLAISIR.
THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE OUT OF SIGHT.

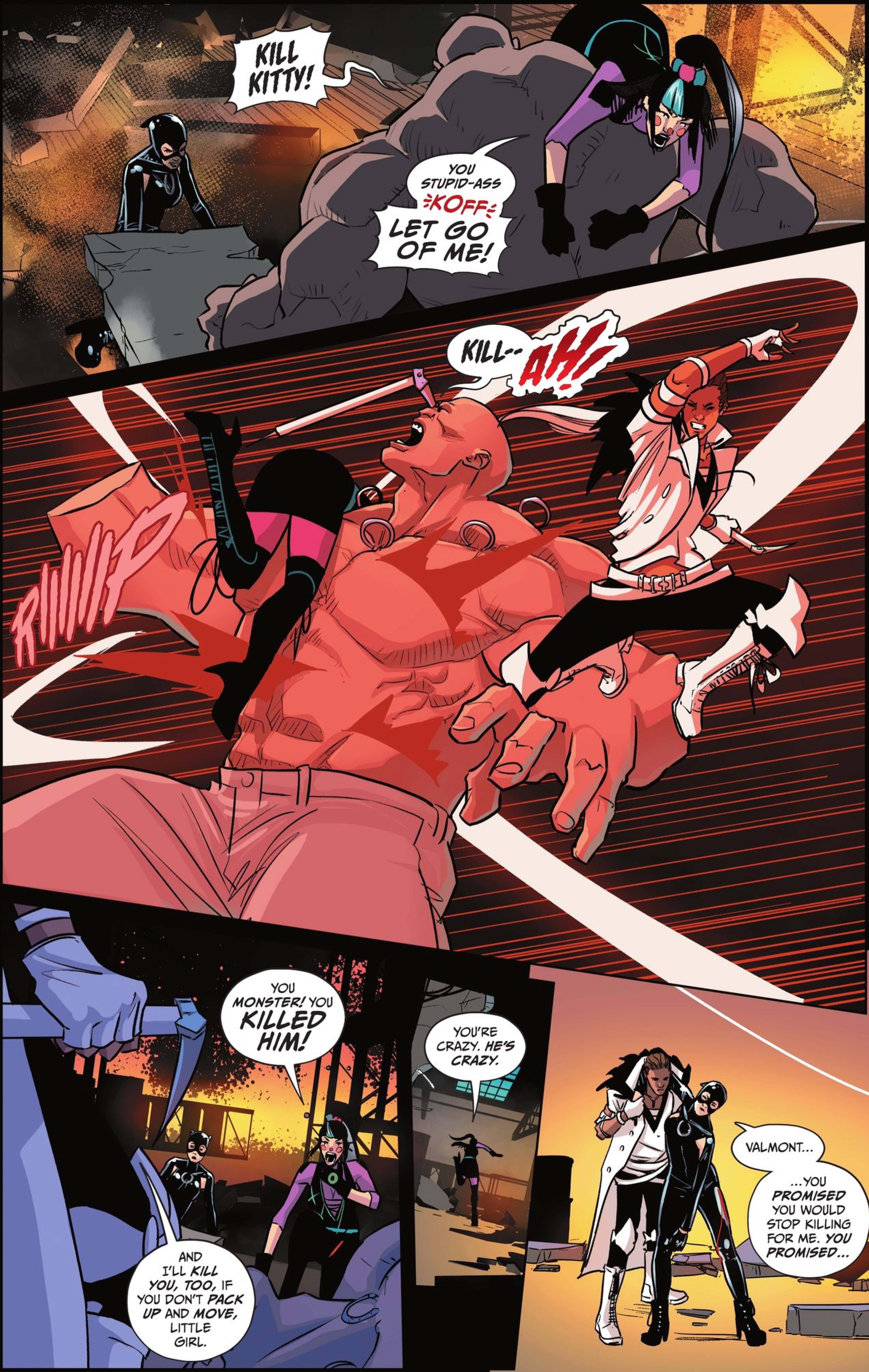

VALMONT'S ON HIS WAY, CAT--I'M ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE *KING AND QUEEN* OF HEARTS--TWO OF PUNCHLINE'S TOP GENERALS.
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR *US?*
I THINK THAT'S *EXCITING.*
NOW THAT WE KNOW WE LIKE EACH OTHER, ENOUGH *SMALL TALK.* LET'S *PLAY.*
K
GOONS PLAY. *I* DIDN'T COME BACK TO GOTHAM TO *PLAY.*
CAN WE CHANGE YOUR MIND?
UNGH--
THE LONGER I LIVE HERE THE MORE I'M *SURE*--EVERYONE IN *GOTHAM IS A FREAK!*
YOU WATCH IT--THAT FREAK IS MY *HUSBAND!*
KZZZTT
AAH!

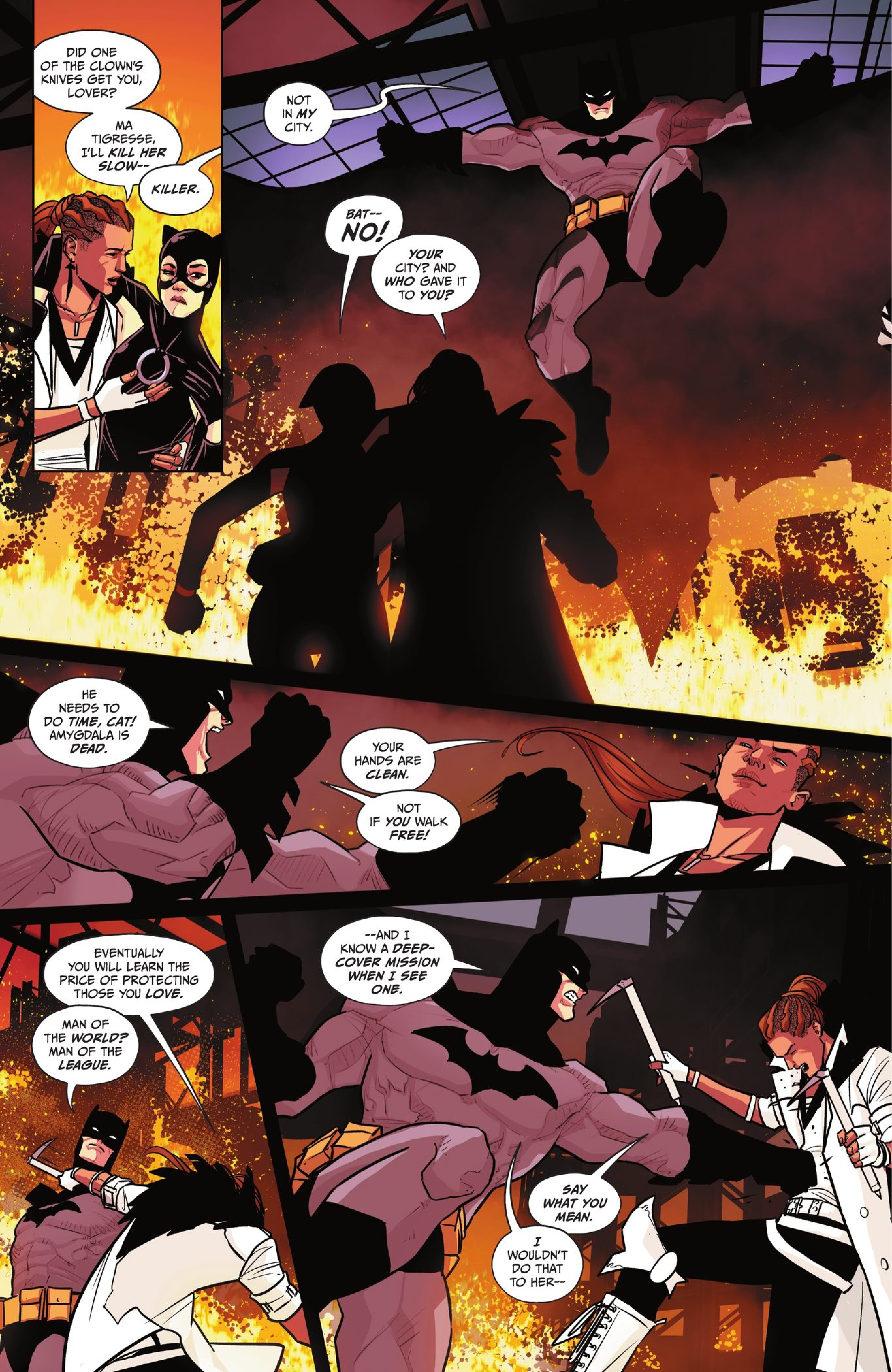

WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
AARON HELZINGER. SIR. NOW IS THIS ANY KIND OF TREATMENT FOR A *GENTLEMAN?*
RRRR...
AS I IMAGINE YOU'RE HERE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE *GENTLEMAN'S CLUB,* YES?
CATWOMAN, THEY HAVE AMYGDALA.
WHERE? CAPTURED? WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T--
CLIK
I CAN'T *LEAVE* YOU IMPRISONED LIKE THIS... IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT. IT'S NOT FAIR OF SOMEONE LIKE *PUNCHLINE* TO THINK SOMEONE LIKE *YOU* IS...
...UNPREDICTABLE.
THIS WAY... LOOK HERE!
ARE YOU *MAD* AT PUNCHLINE? WANT TO *DO* SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
RRRH-RGHH--RAAHHH--!

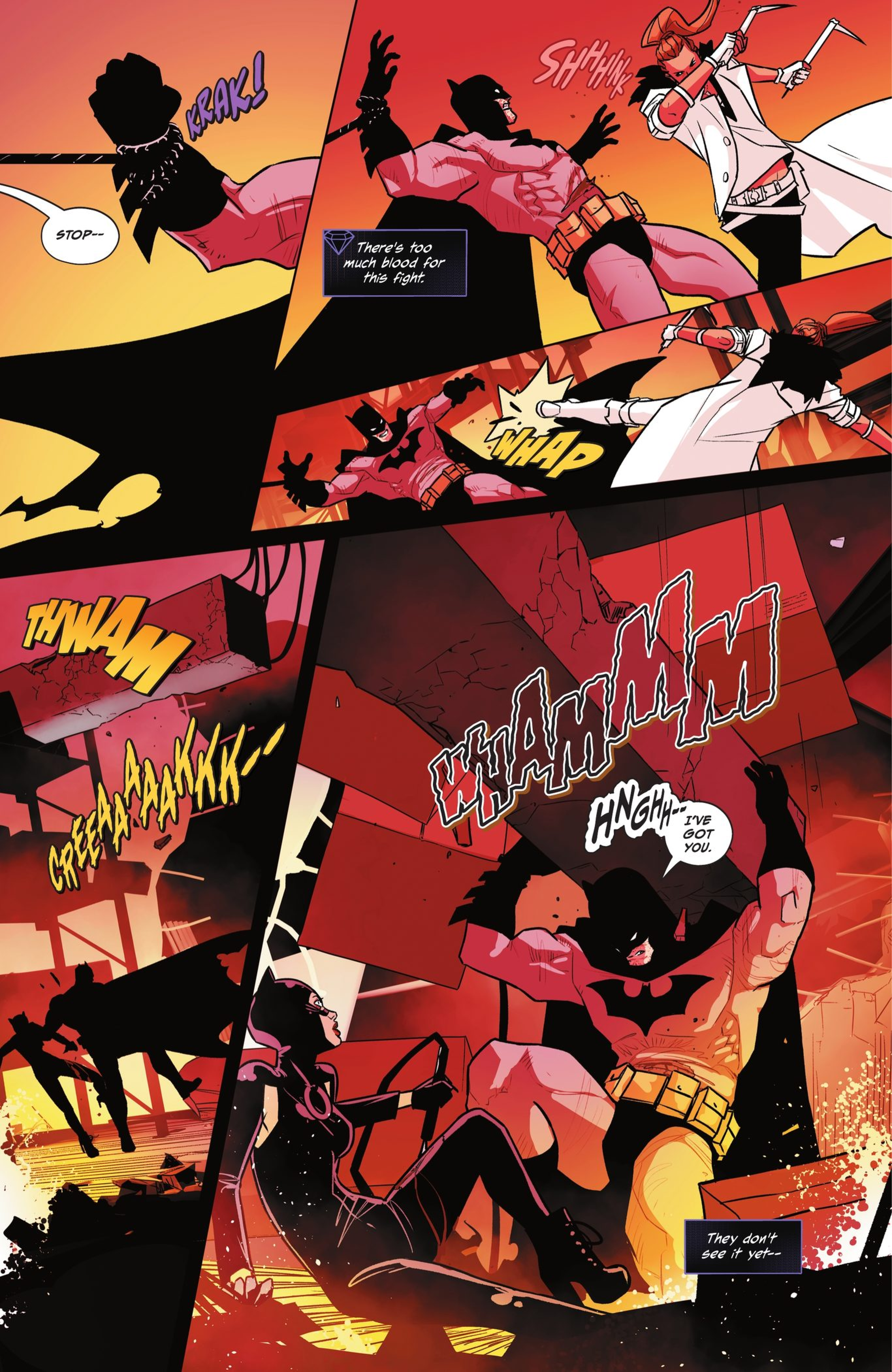

NEVER MIND.
I DON'T THINK SHE'S CUTE ANYMORE.
ME NEITHER. SHE DROPPED LIKE A SACK OF POTATOES.
I NEED A LOVER WHO CAN TAKE A *LITTLE* ELECTRICITY AT *LEAST.*
I THINK THAT'S FAIR--
THINK I'M CUTE *NOW?*
SLASH
AHH!
THAT'S FROM THE *CAT*--
THIS ONE'S FROM *ME*--
WHUD
--JUST SO YOU LEARN TO GET BETTER.
GENERALS *DOWN.*
PRETTY SURE I'VE SEEN THESE TWO BEFORE--BUT THEY'RE *RUSTY.* MUST'VE COME OUT OF RETIREMENT.
STATUS?

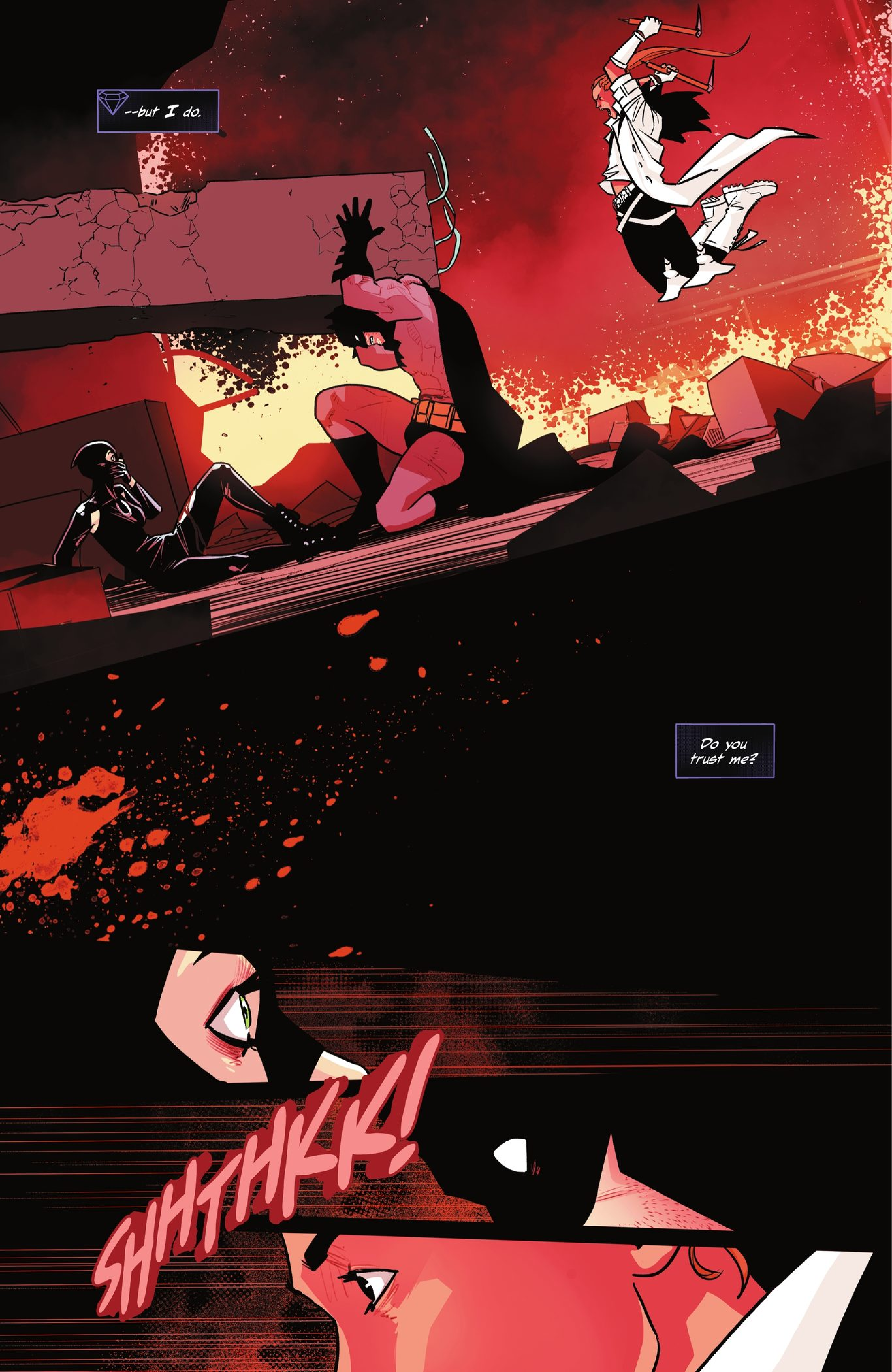

ACCK!
THOK!
I'M HERE.
I'M HANDLING PUNCHLINE. I NEED THE AREA CLEARED--WE'VE GOT A BUNCH OF THIS X-O IN THE VENTS, AND THERE'S EVERY INDICATION IT'S FLAMMABLE IN THESE PRESSURIZED CONTAINERS.
THIS IS TOMCAT--WE'RE CLEAR. NO ONE'S AROUND TO BREATHE THIS CRAP IF WE RELEASE IT.
OVER.
THIS IS WHO?!
CAN'T EVEN KEEP TRACK OF YOUR OWN KIDS? JUST LIKE A CAT.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.
ALEXIS KAYE, THIS STOPS NOW.

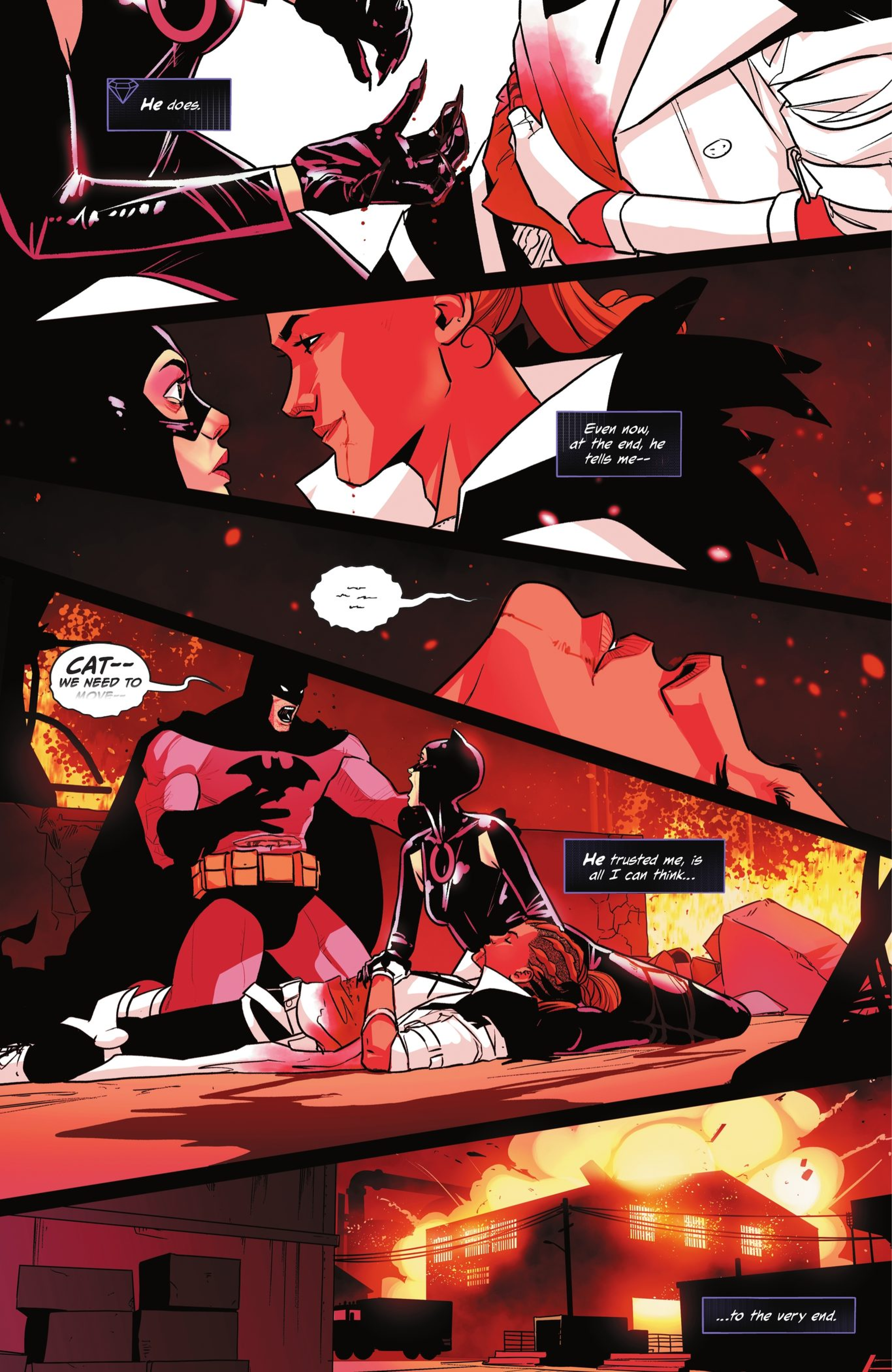

I'M NOT A FAN OF LOCKING PEOPLE UP AND THROWING AWAY THE KEY, BUT FOR YOU, I'D SWALLOW THAT KEY MYSELF.
WELL, I'D--HNNG--ENJOY CUTTING YOU OPEN TO GET IT BACK.
YOU'LL CERTAINLY HAVE TIME TO FANTASIZE ABOUT THAT IN PRISON.
KKKH--HEH--LITTLE TIGHT THERE, KILLER--KOFF
YOU'LL BE FINE--
CATWOMAN! IT'S AMYGDALA, HE'S--
AARRGGHHHH!

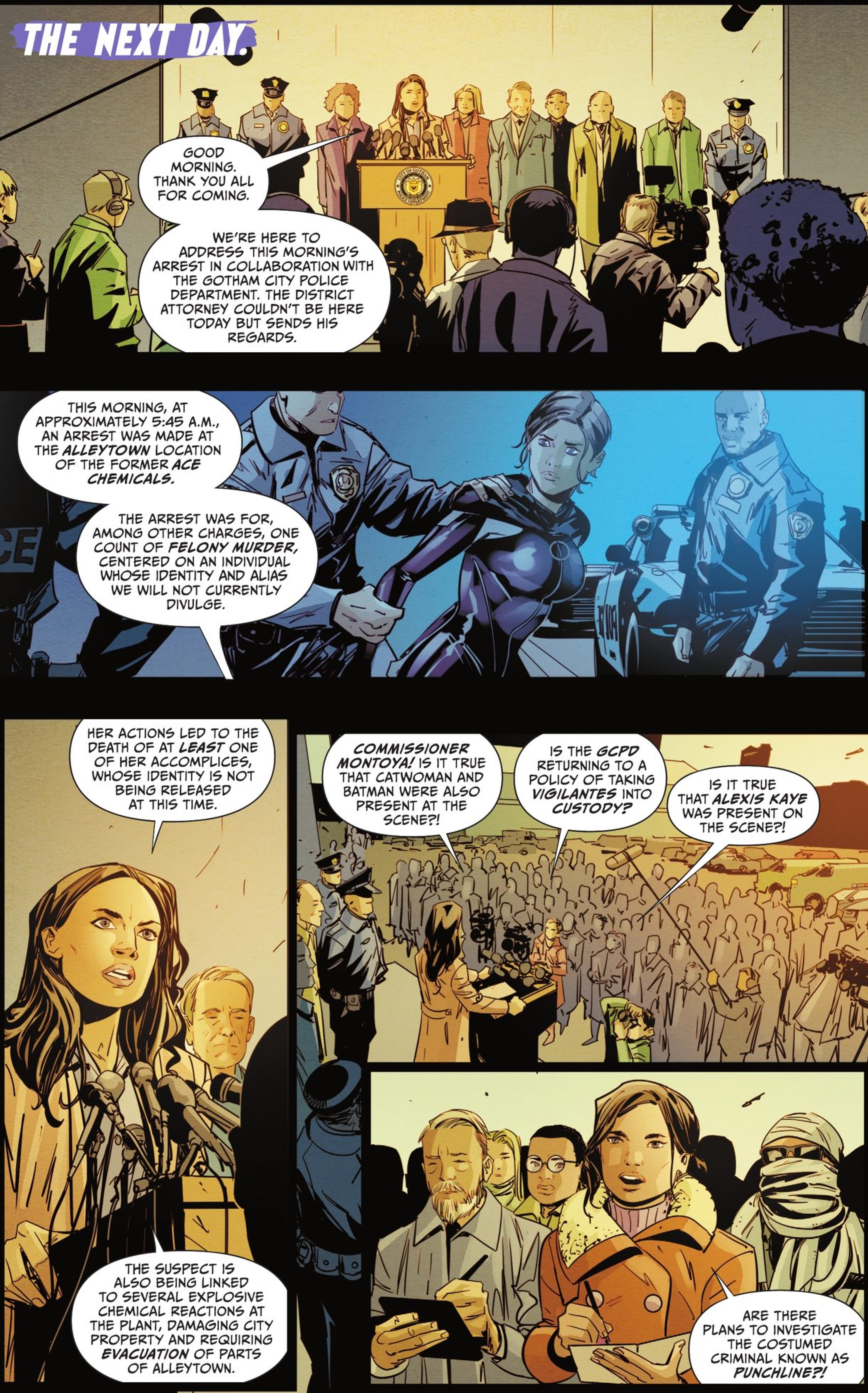

KILL KITTY!
YOU STUPID-ASS *KOFF* LET GO OF ME!
KILL-- AH!
RIIIIIP
YOU MONSTER! YOU KILLED HIM!
AND I'LL KILL YOU, TOO, IF YOU DON'T PACK UP AND MOVE, LITTLE GIRL.
YOU'RE CRAZY. HE'S CRAZY.
VALMONT...
...YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD STOP KILLING FOR ME. YOU PROMISED...

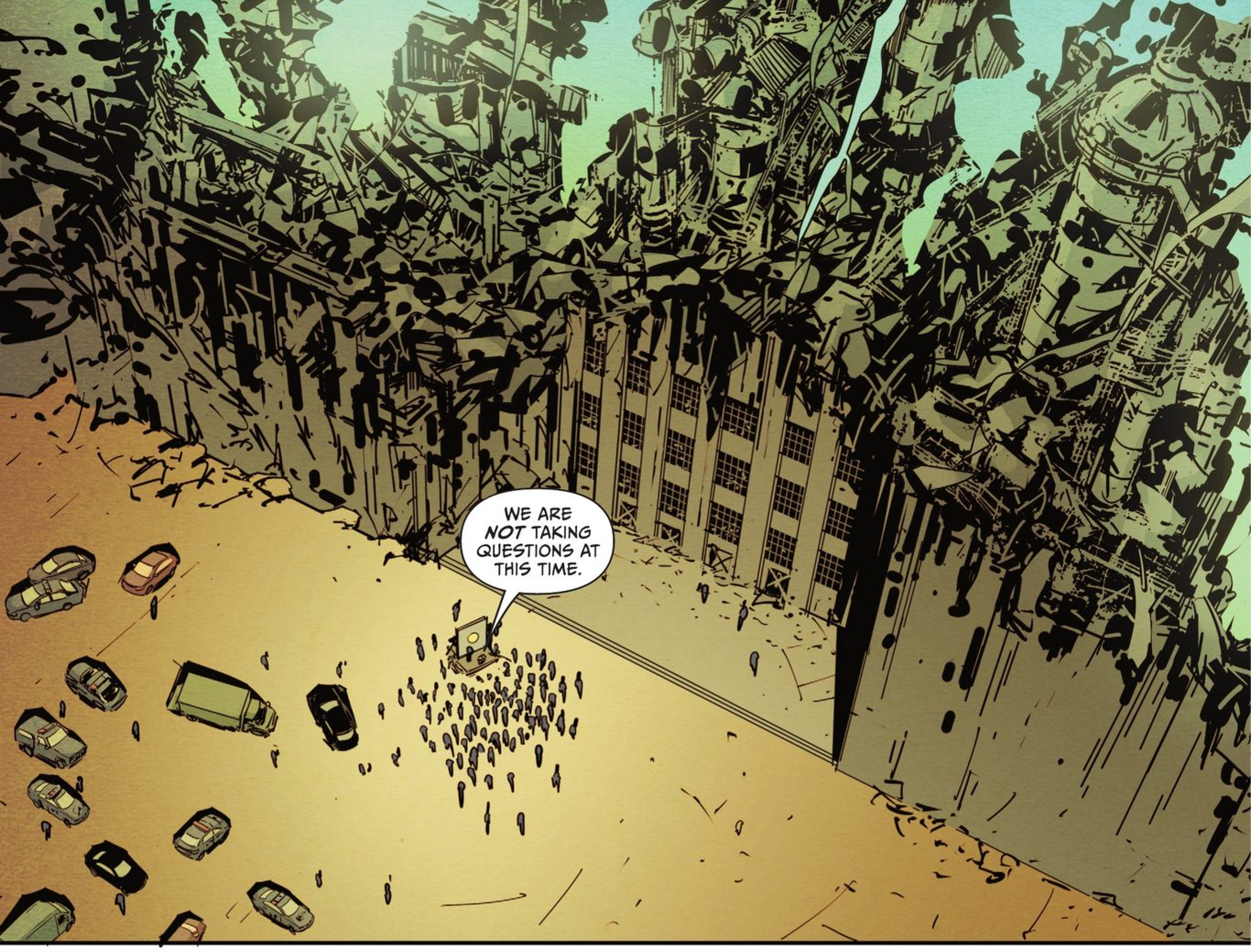

DID ONE OF THE CLOWN'S KNIVES GET YOU, LOVER?
MA TIGRESSE, I'LL *KILL HER SLOW*--
KILLER.
NOT IN *MY* CITY.
BAT-- **NO!**
YOUR CITY? AND *WHO* GAVE IT TO *YOU?*
HE NEEDS TO DO *TIME, CAT!* AMYGDALA IS *DEAD.*
YOUR HANDS ARE *CLEAN.*
NOT IF *YOU* WALK *FREE!*
EVENTUALLY YOU WILL LEARN THE PRICE OF PROTECTING THOSE YOU *LOVE.*
MAN OF THE *WORLD?* MAN OF THE *LEAGUE.*
--AND I KNOW A *DEEP-COVER MISSION WHEN I SEE ONE.*
SAY WHAT YOU MEAN.
I WOULDN'T DO THAT TO HER--


KRAK!
STOP--
SHHHHNK
There's too much blood for this fight.
WHAP
THWAM
CREEAAAAKKK--
WHAMMM
HNGHH--
I'VE GOT YOU.
They don't see it yet--


--but I do.
Do you trust me?
SHHTHKK!


He does.
Even now, at the end, he tells me--
CAT-- WE NEED TO MOVE--
He trusted me, is all I can think...
...to the very end.


THE NEXT DAY.
GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.
WE'RE HERE TO ADDRESS THIS MORNING'S ARREST IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COULDN'T BE HERE TODAY BUT SENDS HIS REGARDS.
THIS MORNING, AT APPROXIMATELY 5:45 A.M., AN ARREST WAS MADE AT THE *ALLEYTOWN* LOCATION OF THE FORMER *ACE CHEMICALS.*
THE ARREST WAS FOR, AMONG OTHER CHARGES, ONE COUNT OF *FELONY MURDER,* CENTERED ON AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE IDENTITY AND ALIAS WE WILL NOT CURRENTLY DIVULGE.
HER ACTIONS LED TO THE DEATH OF AT *LEAST* ONE OF HER ACCOMPLICES, WHOSE IDENTITY IS NOT BEING RELEASED AT THIS TIME.
THE SUSPECT IS ALSO BEING LINKED TO SEVERAL EXPLOSIVE CHEMICAL REACTIONS AT THE PLANT, DAMAGING CITY PROPERTY AND REQUIRING *EVACUATION* OF PARTS OF ALLEYTOWN.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA! IS IT TRUE THAT CATWOMAN AND BATMAN WERE ALSO PRESENT AT THE SCENE?!
IS THE *GCPD* RETURNING TO A POLICY OF TAKING *VIGILANTES* INTO *CUSTODY?*
IS IT TRUE THAT *ALEXIS KAYE* WAS PRESENT ON THE SCENE?!
ARE THERE PLANS TO INVESTIGATE THE COSTUMED CRIMINAL KNOWN AS *PUNCHLINE?!*

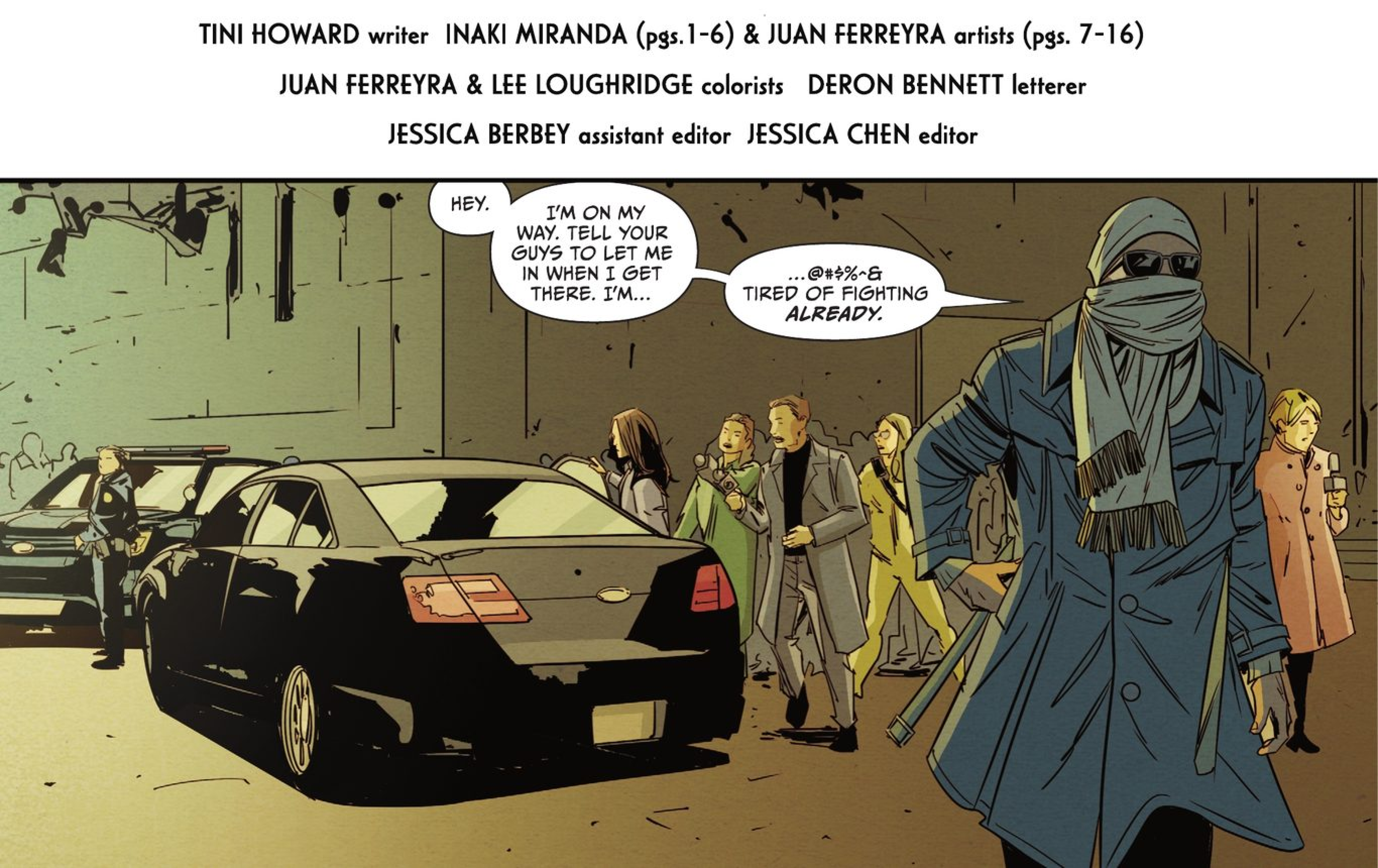

WE ARE *NOT* TAKING QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME.

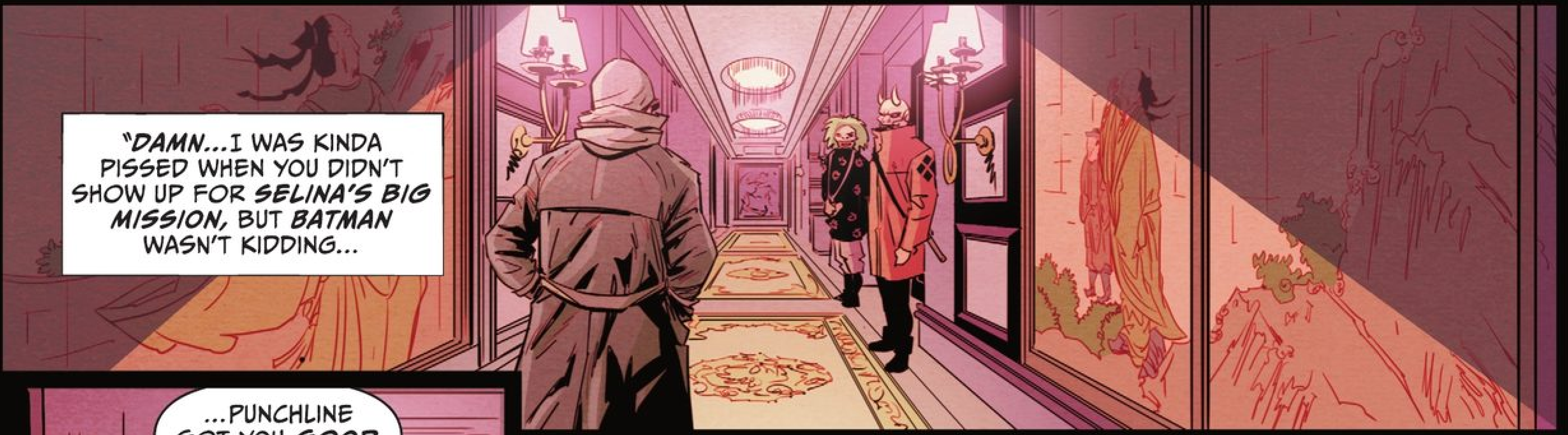
PART II:
"THE AFTERMATH"

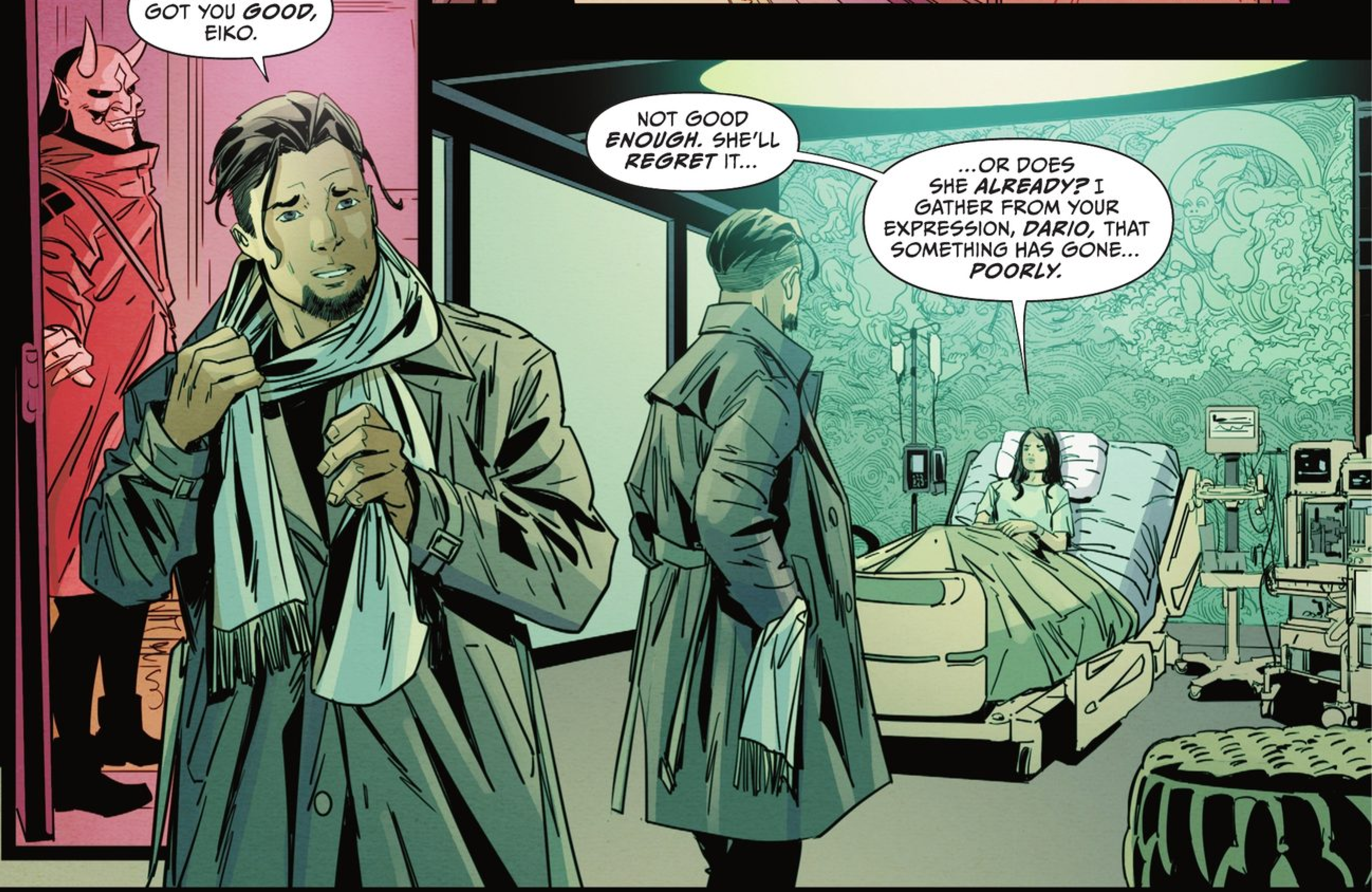
TINI HOWARD writer **INAKI MIRANDA** (pgs.1-6) & **JUAN FERREYRA** artists (pgs. 7-16)

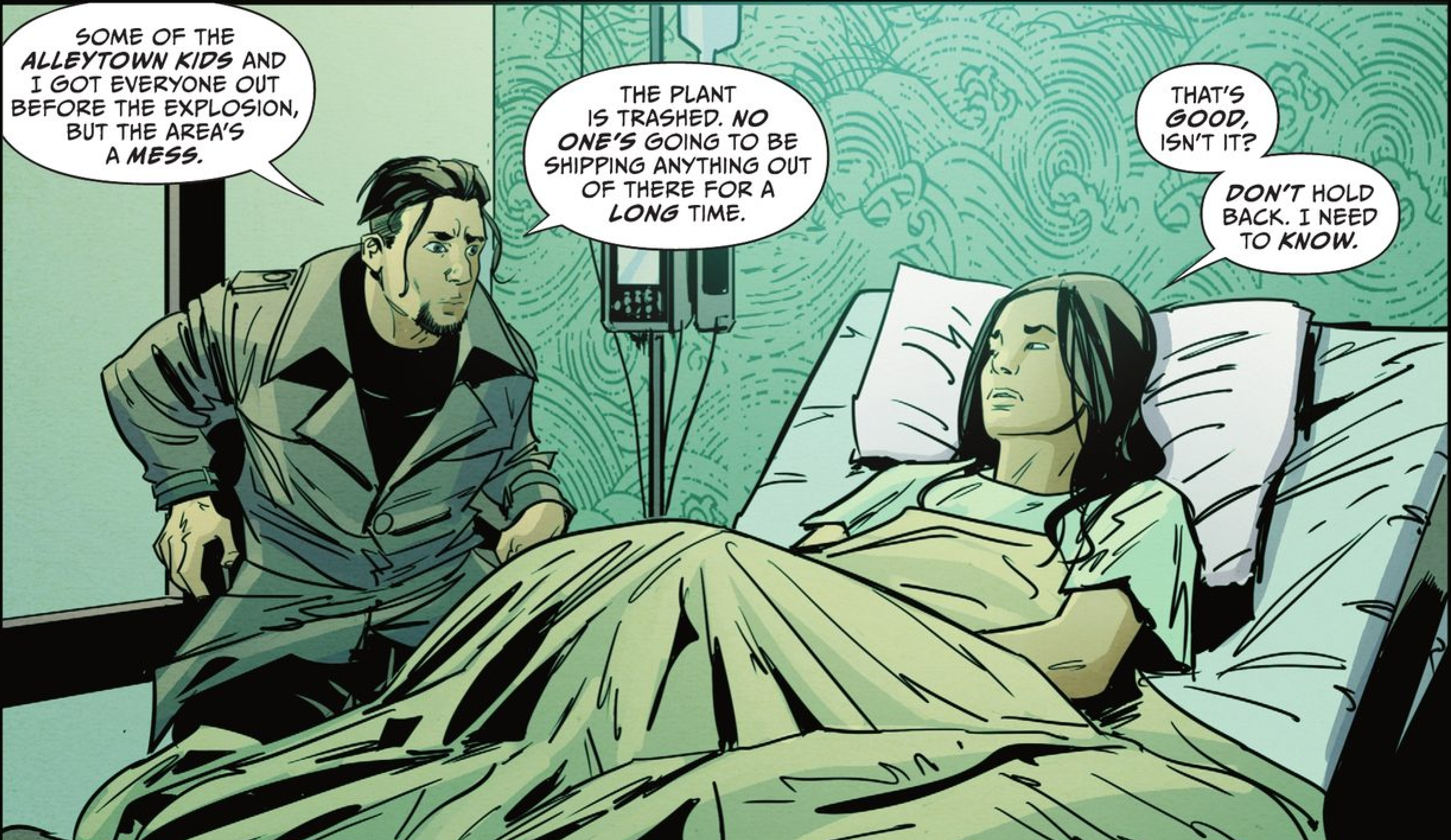
JUAN FERREYRA & LEE LOUGHRIDGE colorists **DERON BENNETT** letterer

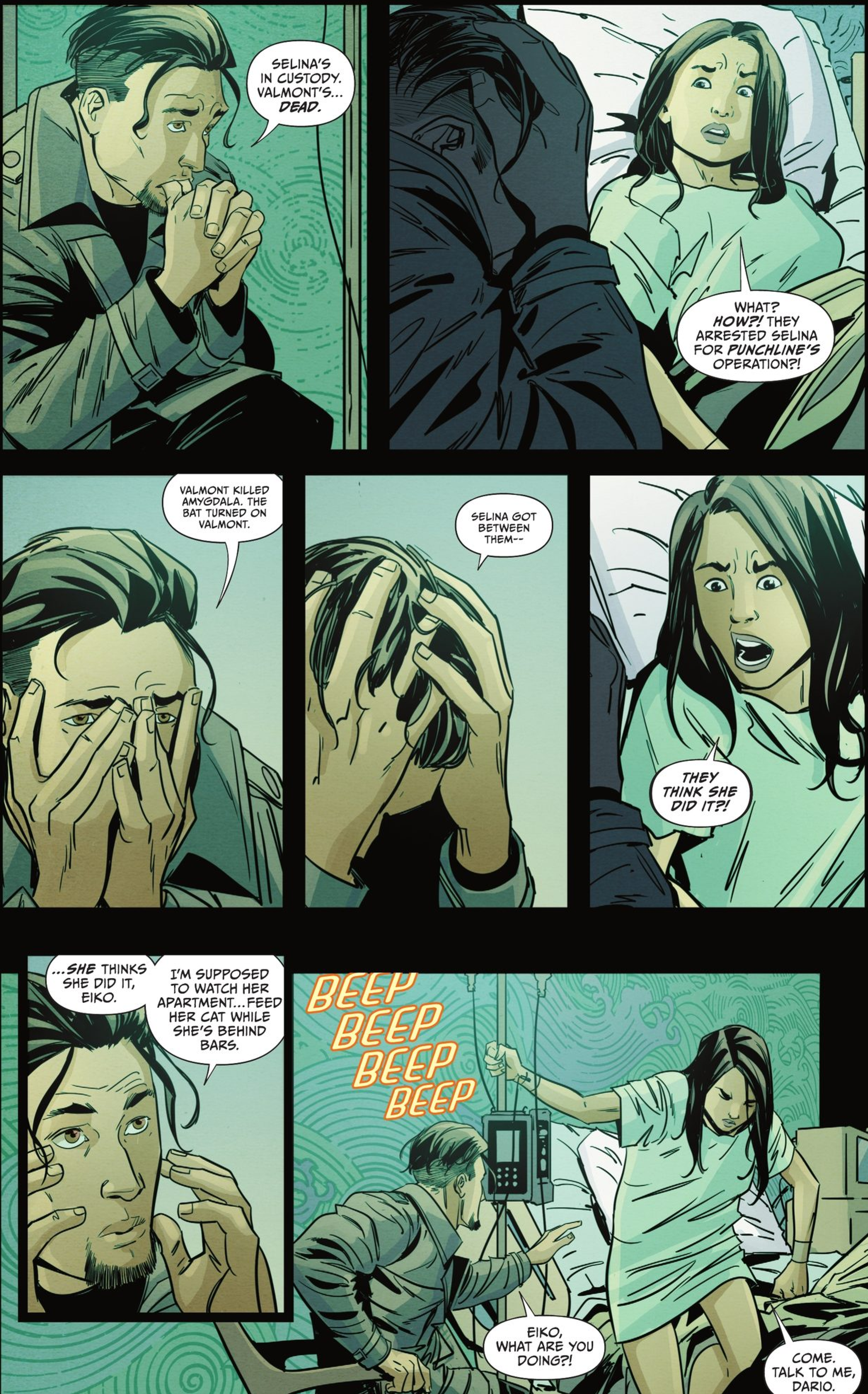
JESSICA BERBEY assistant editor **JESSICA CHEN** editor

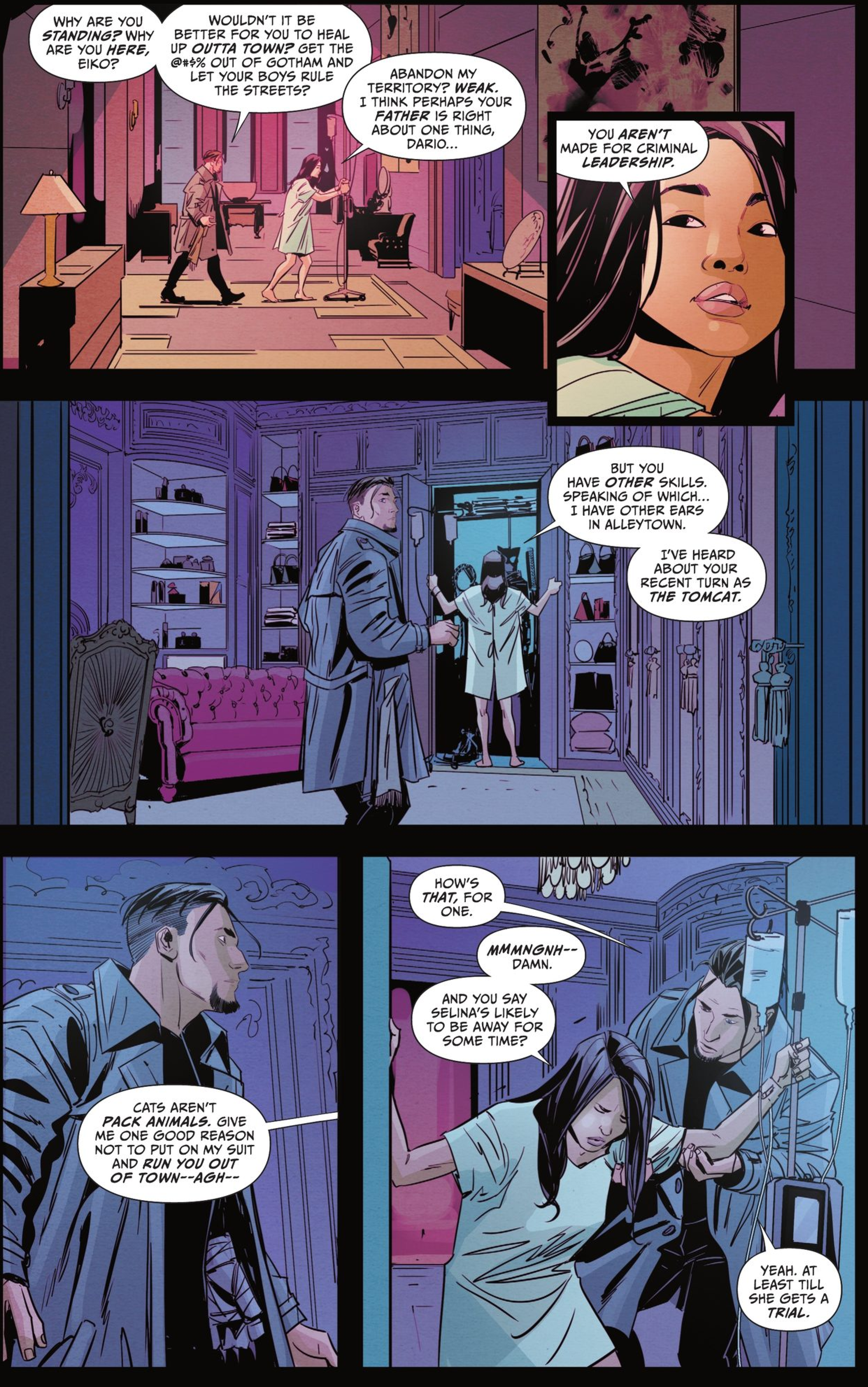

HEY.
I'M ON MY WAY. TELL YOUR GUYS TO LET ME IN WHEN I GET THERE. I'M...
...@#$%^& TIRED OF FIGHTING *ALREADY.*

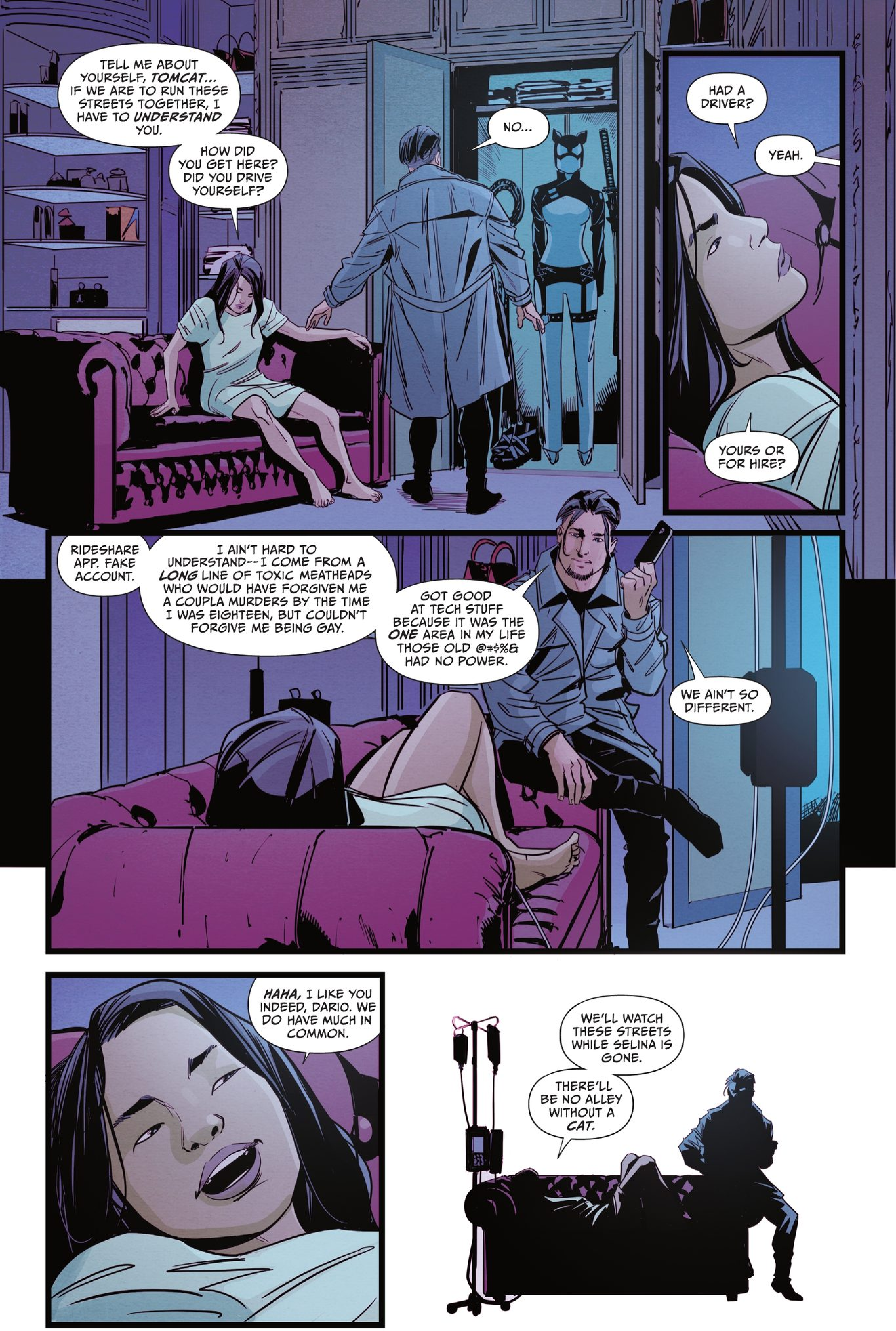

"*DAMN...* I WAS KINDA PISSED WHEN YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR *SELINA'S BIG MISSION,* BUT *BATMAN* WASN'T KIDDING...

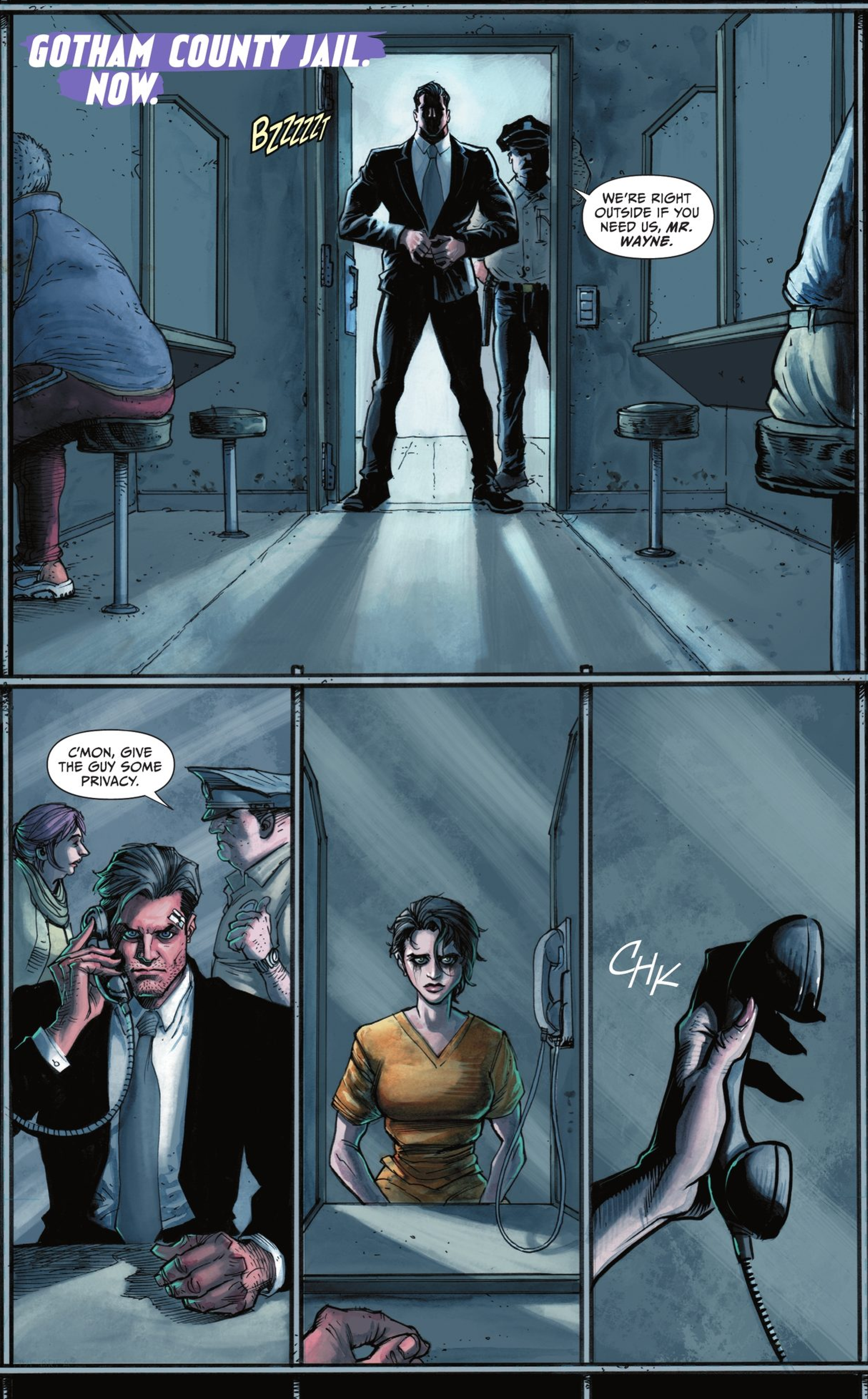

...PUNCHLINE GOT YOU *GOOD,* EIKO.
NOT GOOD *ENOUGH.* SHE'LL *REGRET* IT...
...OR DOES SHE *ALREADY?* I GATHER FROM YOUR EXPRESSION, *DARIO,* THAT SOMETHING HAS GONE... *POORLY.*

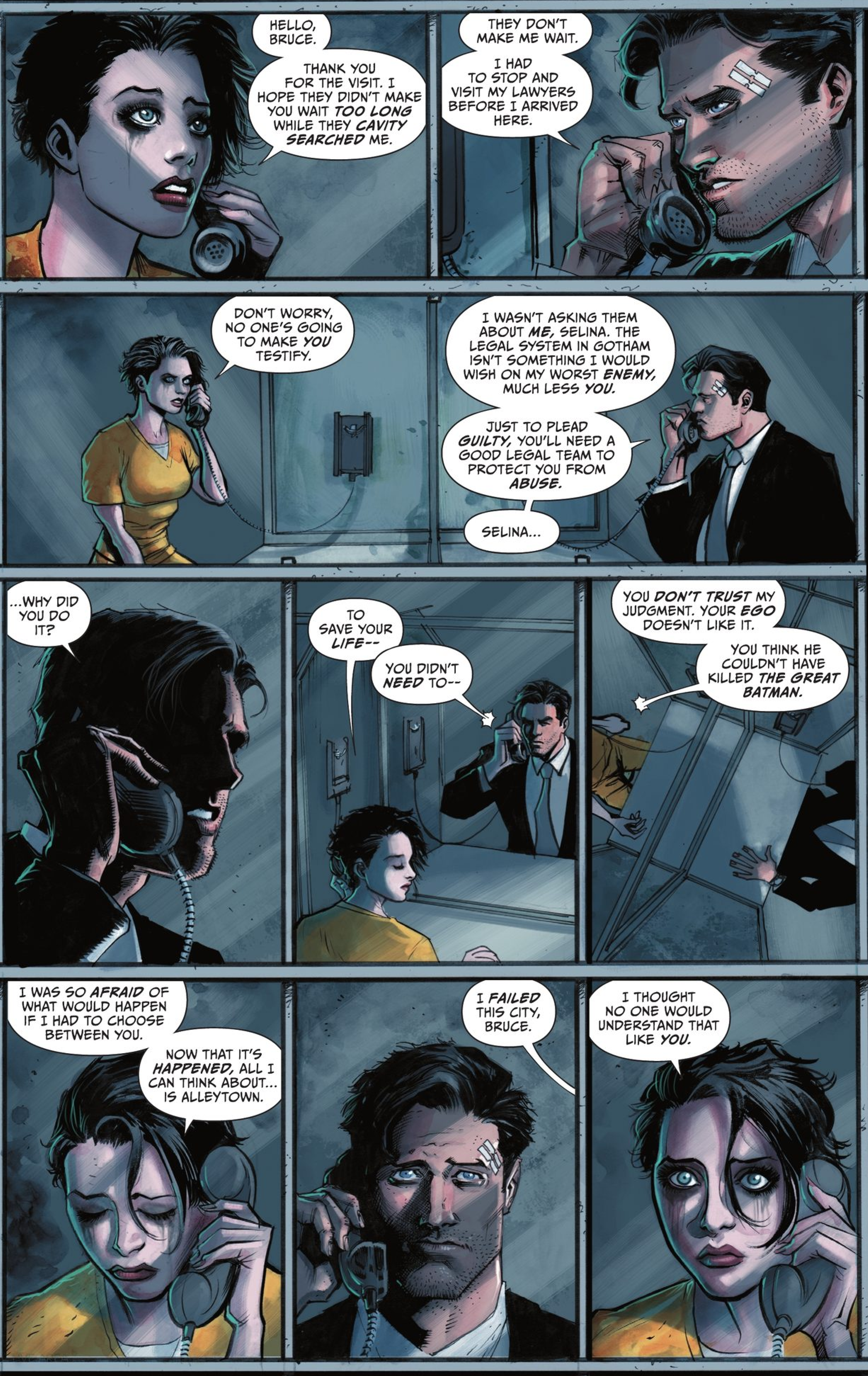

SOME OF THE *ALLEYTOWN KIDS* AND I GOT EVERYONE OUT BEFORE THE EXPLOSION, BUT THE AREA'S A *MESS.*
THE PLANT IS TRASHED. *NO ONE'S* GOING TO BE SHIPPING ANYTHING OUT OF THERE FOR A *LONG* TIME.
THAT'S *GOOD,* ISN'T IT?
DON'T HOLD BACK. I NEED TO *KNOW.*

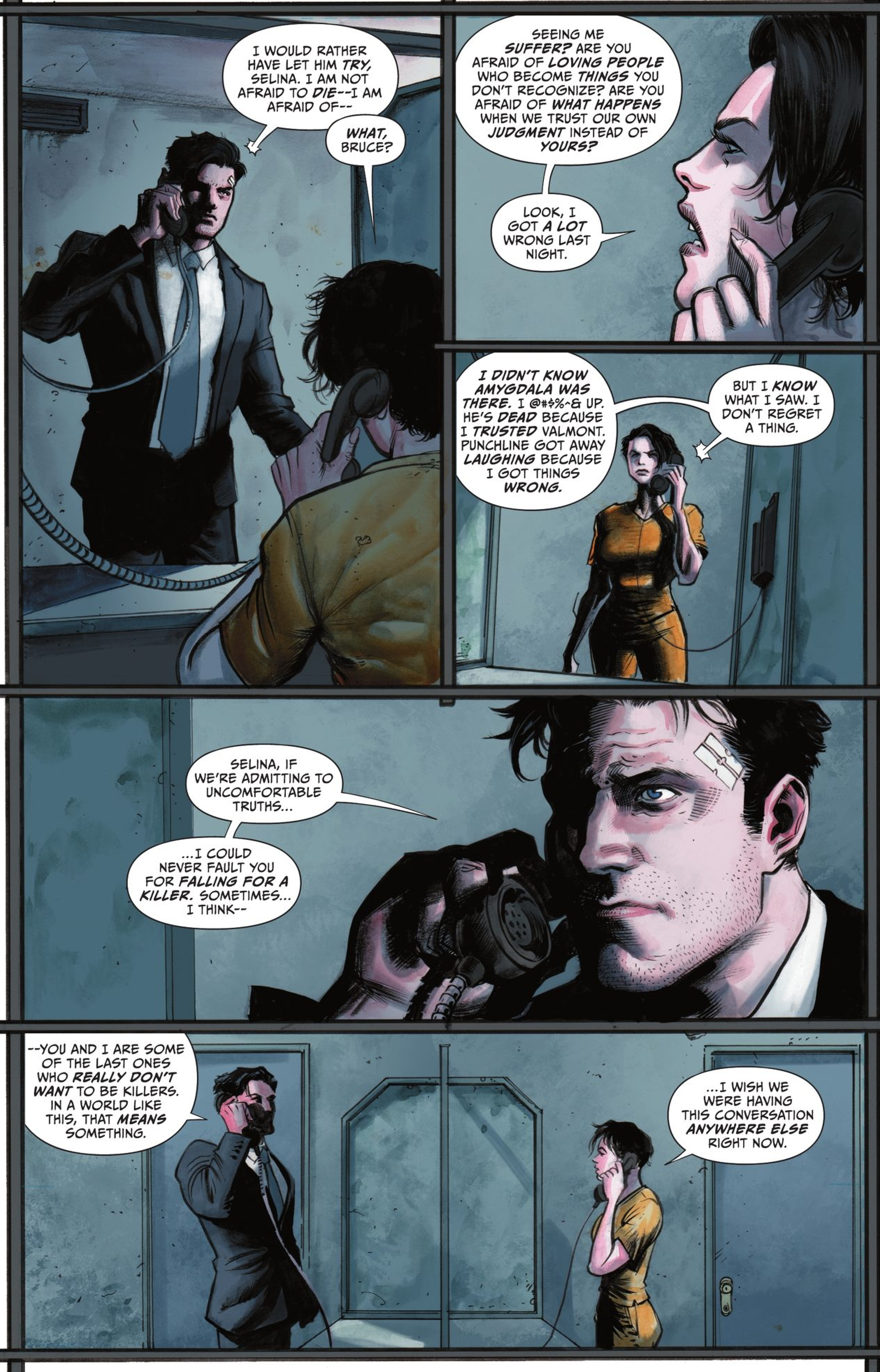

SELINA'S IN CUSTODY. VALMONT'S... *DEAD.*
WHAT? *HOW?!* THEY ARRESTED SELINA FOR *PUNCHLINE'S* OPERATION?!
VALMONT KILLED AMYGDALA. THE BAT TURNED ON VALMONT.
SELINA GOT BETWEEN THEM--
THEY THINK SHE DID IT?!
...*SHE* THINKS SHE DID IT, EIKO.
I'M SUPPOSED TO WATCH HER APARTMENT...FEED HER CAT WHILE SHE'S BEHIND BARS.
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
EIKO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
COME. TALK TO ME, DARIO.

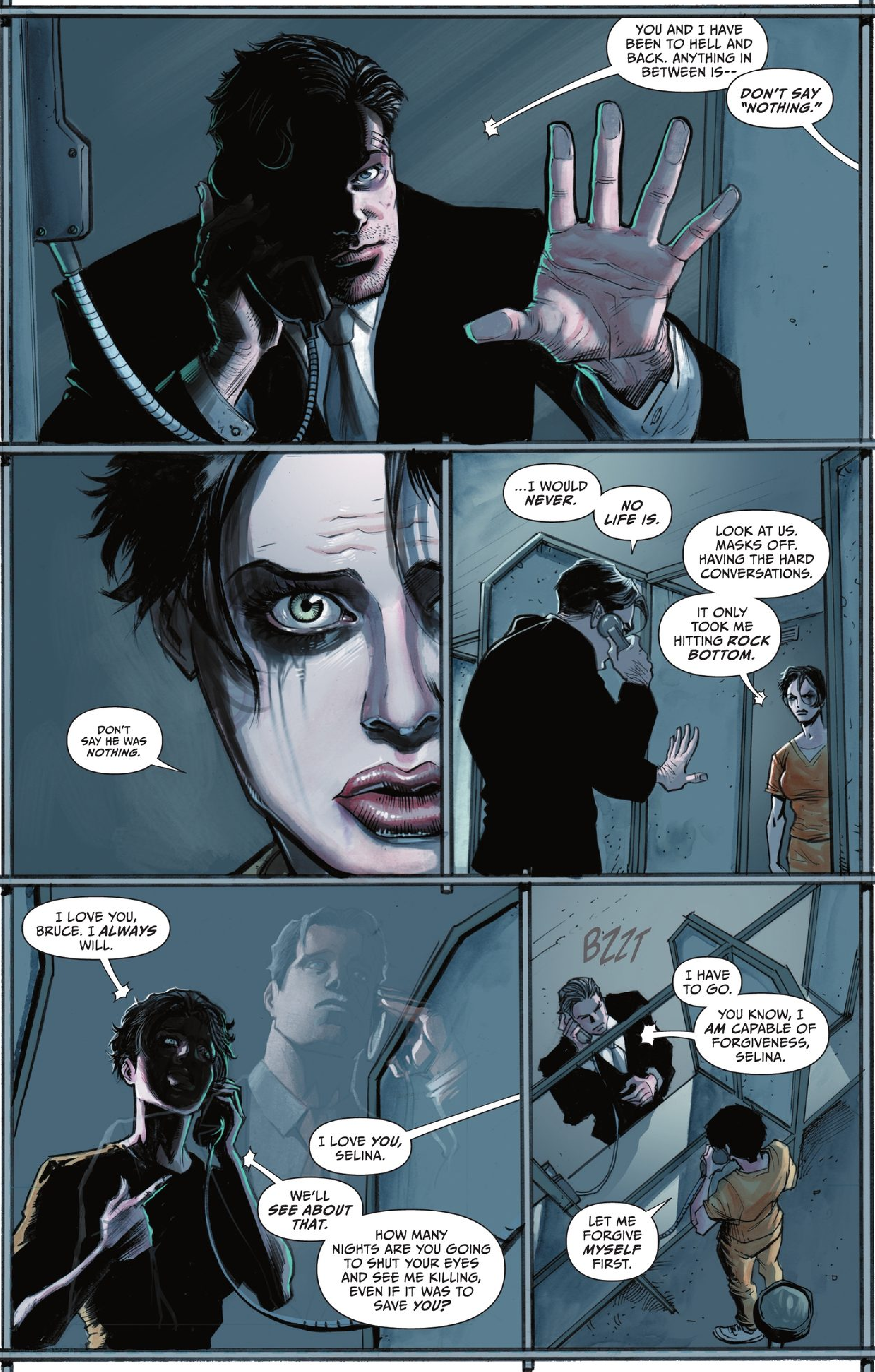

WHY ARE YOU *STANDING?* WHY ARE YOU *HERE,* EIKO?
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO HEAL UP *OUTTA TOWN?* GET THE @#$% OUT OF GOTHAM AND LET YOUR BOYS RULE THE STREETS?
ABANDON MY TERRITORY? *WEAK.* I THINK PERHAPS YOUR *FATHER* IS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, DARIO...
YOU *AREN'T* MADE FOR CRIMINAL *LEADERSHIP.*
BUT YOU HAVE *OTHER* SKILLS. SPEAKING OF WHICH... I HAVE OTHER EARS IN ALLEYTOWN.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR RECENT TURN AS *THE TOMCAT.*
CATS AREN'T *PACK ANIMALS.* GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON NOT TO PUT ON MY SUIT AND *RUN YOU OUT OF TOWN--AGH--*
HOW'S *THAT,* FOR ONE.
MMMNGNH-- DAMN.
AND YOU SAY SELINA'S LIKELY TO BE AWAY FOR SOME TIME?
YEAH. AT LEAST TILL SHE GETS A *TRIAL.*

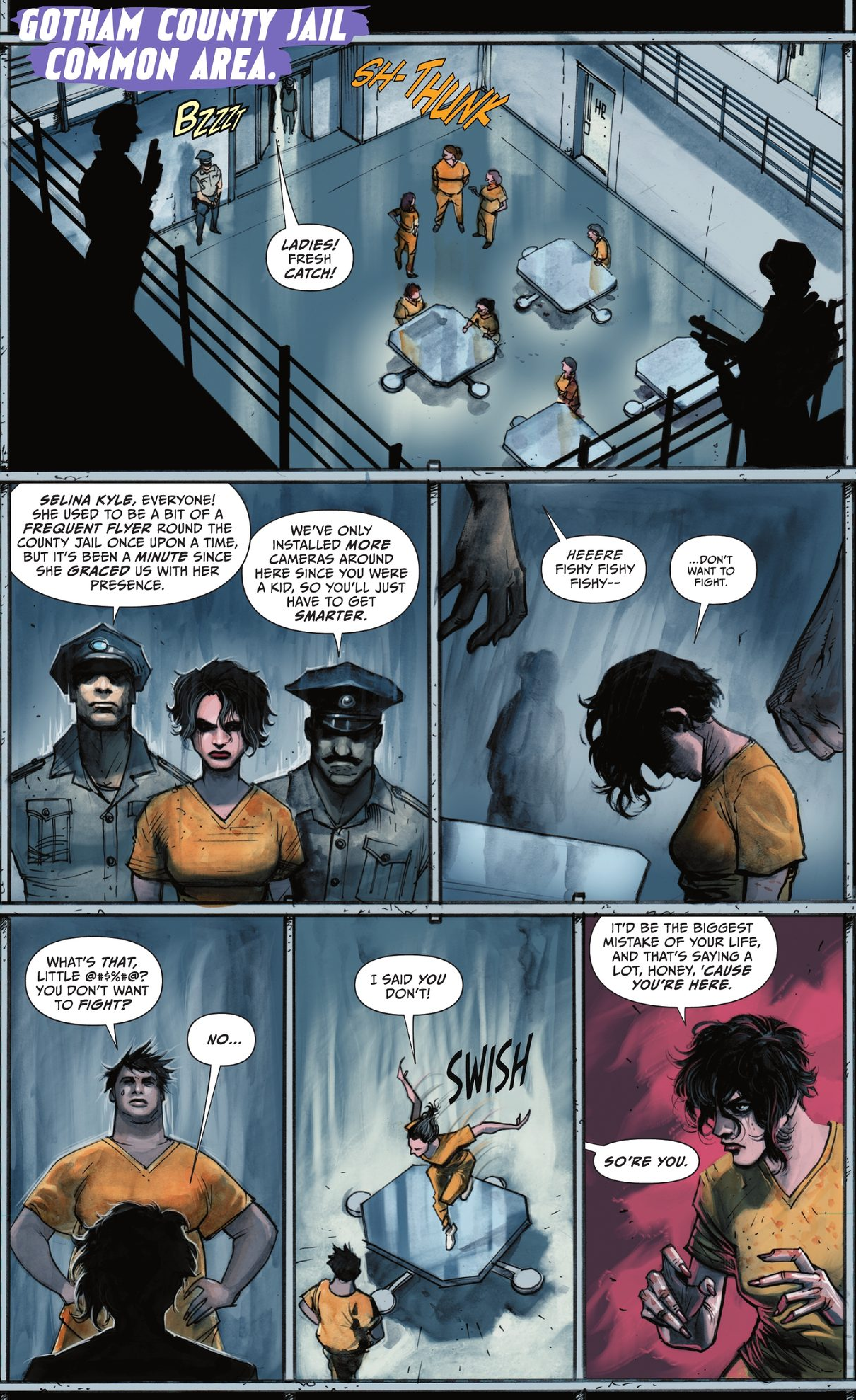

TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, ***TOMCAT...*** IF WE ARE TO RUN THESE STREETS TOGETHER, I HAVE TO ***UNDERSTAND*** YOU.
HOW DID YOU GET HERE? DID YOU DRIVE YOURSELF?
NO...
HAD A DRIVER?
YEAH.
YOURS OR FOR HIRE?
RIDESHARE APP. FAKE ACCOUNT.
I AIN'T HARD TO UNDERSTAND--I COME FROM A ***LONG*** LINE OF TOXIC MEATHEADS WHO WOULD HAVE FORGIVEN ME A COUPLA MURDERS BY THE TIME I WAS EIGHTEEN, BUT COULDN'T FORGIVE ME BEING GAY.
GOT GOOD AT TECH STUFF BECAUSE IT WAS THE ***ONE*** AREA IN MY LIFE THOSE OLD @#$%& HAD NO POWER.
WE AIN'T SO DIFFERENT.
HAHA, I LIKE YOU INDEED, DARIO. WE DO HAVE MUCH IN COMMON.
WE'LL WATCH THESE STREETS WHILE SELINA IS GONE.
THERE'LL BE NO ALLEY WITHOUT A ***CAT.***

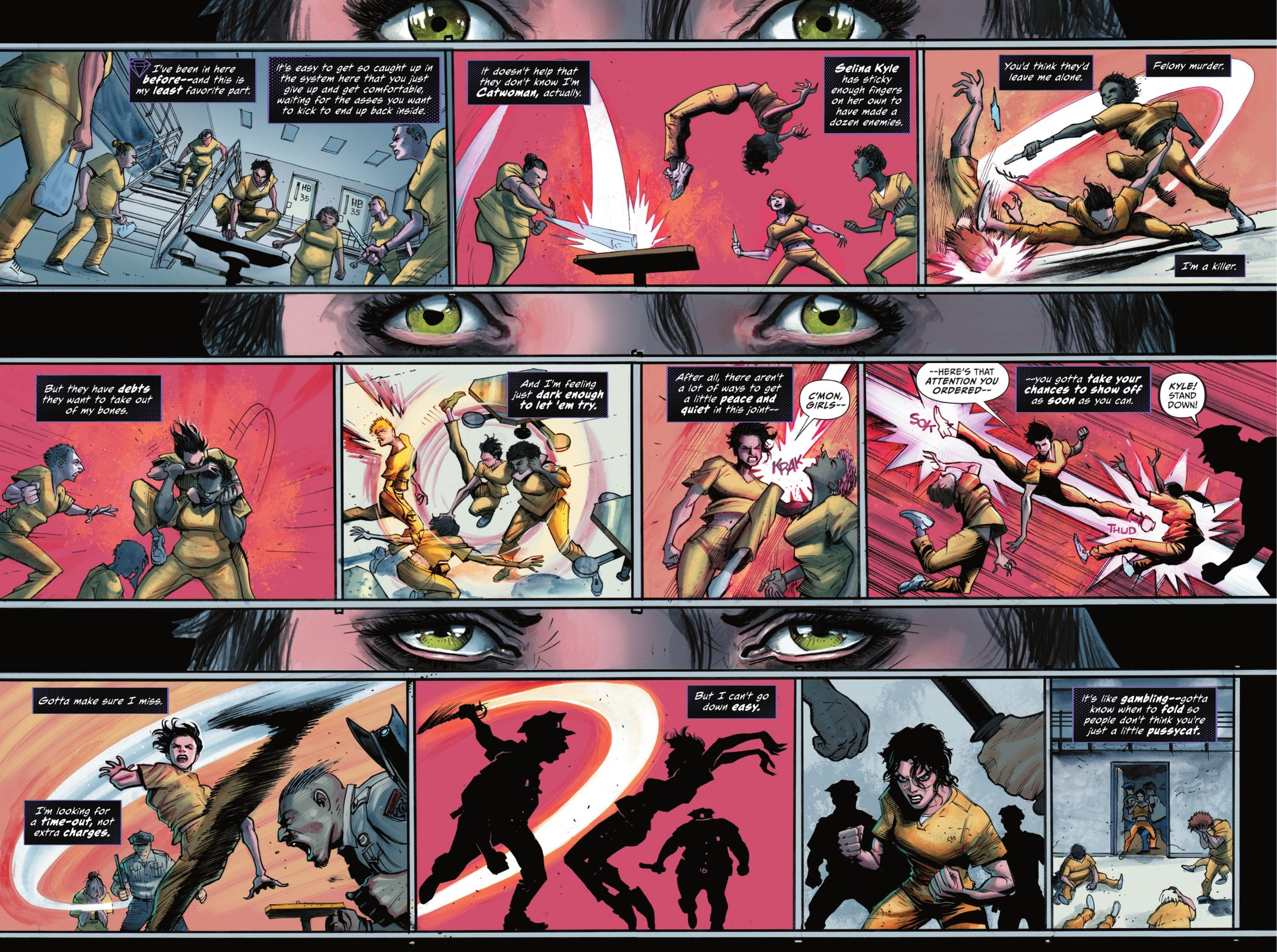

GOTHAM COUNTY JAIL. NOW.
BZZZZZT
WE'RE RIGHT OUTSIDE IF YOU NEED US, *MR. WAYNE.*
C'MON, GIVE THE GUY SOME PRIVACY.
CHK

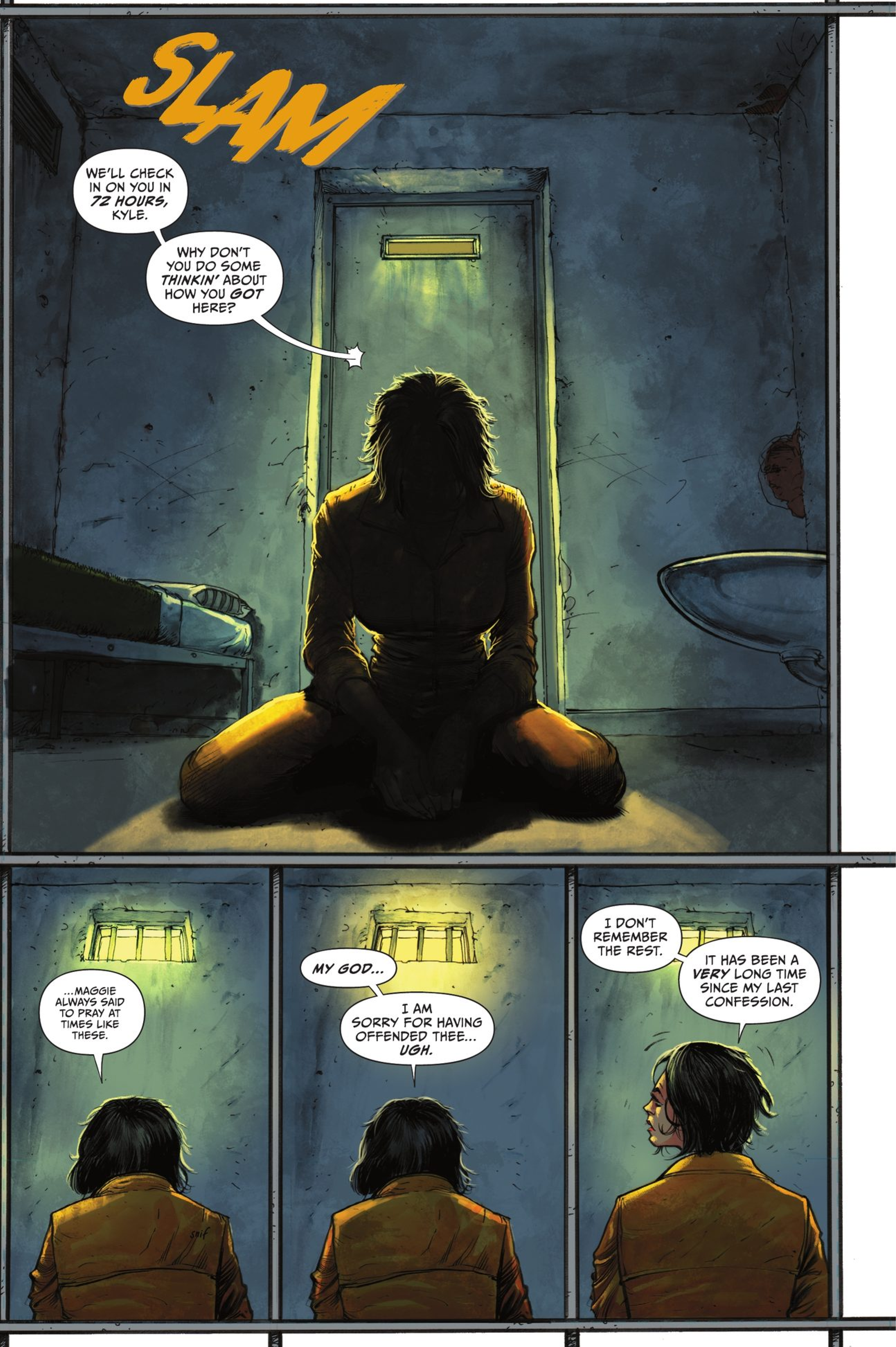

HELLO, BRUCE.
THANK YOU FOR THE VISIT. I HOPE THEY DIDN'T MAKE YOU WAIT *TOO LONG* WHILE THEY *CAVITY SEARCHED* ME.
THEY DON'T MAKE ME WAIT.
I HAD TO STOP AND VISIT MY LAWYERS BEFORE I ARRIVED HERE.
DON'T WORRY, NO ONE'S GOING TO MAKE *YOU* TESTIFY.
I WASN'T ASKING THEM ABOUT *ME,* SELINA. THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN GOTHAM ISN'T SOMETHING I WOULD WISH ON MY WORST *ENEMY,* MUCH LESS *YOU.*
JUST TO PLEAD *GUILTY,* YOU'LL NEED A GOOD LEGAL TEAM TO PROTECT YOU FROM *ABUSE.*
SELINA...
...WHY DID YOU DO IT?
TO SAVE YOUR *LIFE--*
YOU DIDN'T *NEED* TO--
YOU *DON'T TRUST* MY JUDGMENT. YOUR *EGO* DOESN'T LIKE IT.
YOU THINK HE COULDN'T HAVE KILLED *THE GREAT BATMAN.*
I WAS SO *AFRAID* OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU.
NOW THAT IT'S *HAPPENED,* ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT... IS ALLEYTOWN.
I *FAILED* THIS CITY, BRUCE.
I THOUGHT NO ONE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT LIKE *YOU.*

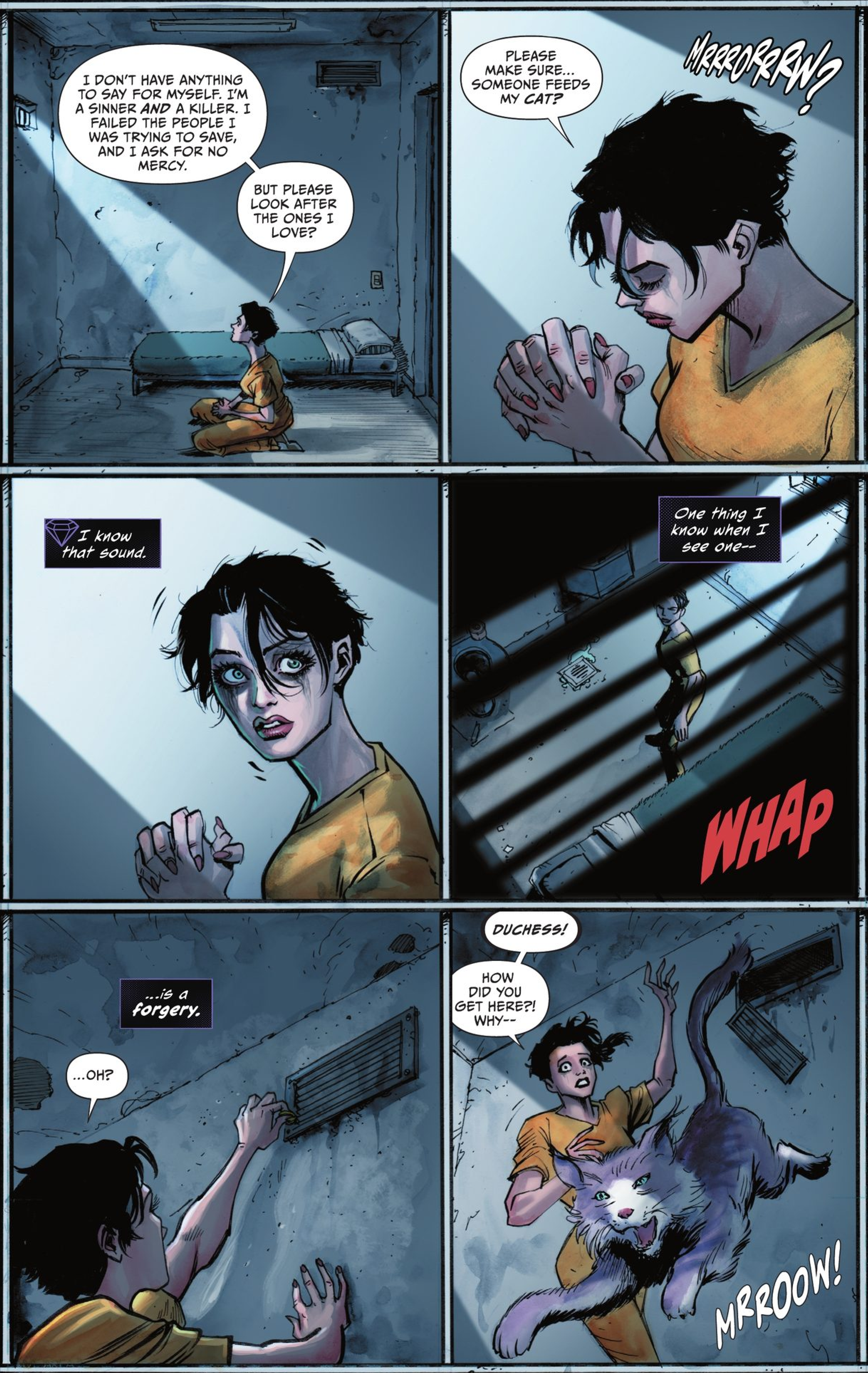

I WOULD RATHER HAVE LET HIM *TRY,* SELINA. I AM NOT AFRAID TO *DIE*--I AM AFRAID OF--
WHAT, BRUCE?
SEEING ME *SUFFER?* ARE YOU AFRAID OF *LOVING PEOPLE* WHO BECOME *THINGS* YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE? ARE YOU AFRAID OF *WHAT HAPPENS* WHEN WE TRUST OUR OWN *JUDGMENT* INSTEAD OF *YOURS?*
LOOK, I GOT *A LOT* WRONG LAST NIGHT.
I DIDN'T KNOW AMYGDALA WAS THERE. I @#$%^& UP. HE'S *DEAD* BECAUSE I *TRUSTED* VALMONT. PUNCHLINE GOT AWAY *LAUGHING* BECAUSE I GOT THINGS *WRONG.*
BUT I *KNOW* WHAT I SAW. I DON'T REGRET A THING.
SELINA, IF WE'RE ADMITTING TO UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTHS...
...I COULD NEVER FAULT YOU FOR *FALLING FOR A KILLER.* SOMETIMES... I THINK--
--YOU AND I ARE SOME OF THE LAST ONES WHO *REALLY DON'T WANT* TO BE KILLERS. IN A WORLD LIKE THIS, THAT *MEANS* SOMETHING.
...I WISH WE WERE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION *ANYWHERE ELSE* RIGHT NOW.

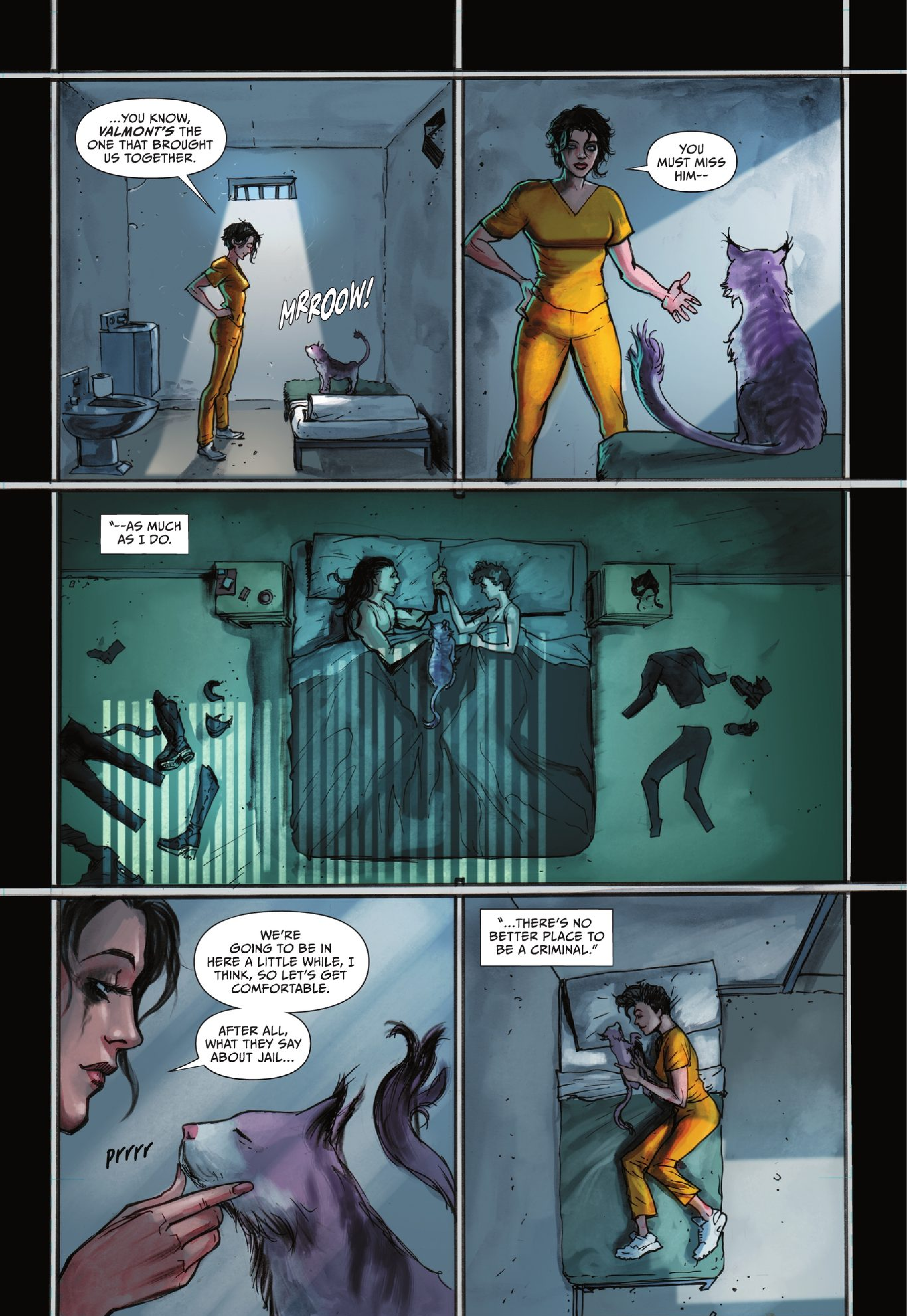

YOU AND I HAVE BEEN TO HELL AND BACK. ANYTHING IN BETWEEN IS--
DON'T SAY "NOTHING."
DON'T SAY HE WAS NOTHING.
...I WOULD NEVER.
NO LIFE IS.
LOOK AT US. MASKS OFF. HAVING THE HARD CONVERSATIONS.
IT ONLY TOOK ME HITTING ROCK BOTTOM.
I LOVE YOU, BRUCE. I ALWAYS WILL.
I LOVE YOU, SELINA.
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.
HOW MANY NIGHTS ARE YOU GOING TO SHUT YOUR EYES AND SEE ME KILLING, EVEN IF IT WAS TO SAVE YOU?
BZZT
I HAVE TO GO.
YOU KNOW, I AM CAPABLE OF FORGIVENESS, SELINA.
LET ME FORGIVE MYSELF FIRST.


GOTHAM COUNTY JAIL COMMON AREA.
BZZZT
SH-THUNK
LADIES! FRESH CATCH!
SELINA KYLE, EVERYONE! SHE USED TO BE A BIT OF A FREQUENT FLYER ROUND THE COUNTY JAIL ONCE UPON A TIME, BUT IT'S BEEN A MINUTE SINCE SHE GRACED US WITH HER PRESENCE.
WE'VE ONLY INSTALLED MORE CAMERAS AROUND HERE SINCE YOU WERE A KID, SO YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GET SMARTER.
HEEERE FISHY FISHY FISHY--
...DON'T WANT TO FIGHT.
WHAT'S THAT, LITTLE @#$%#@? YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT?
NO...
I SAID YOU DON'T!
SWISH
IT'D BE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF YOUR LIFE, AND THAT'S SAYING A LOT, HONEY, 'CAUSE YOU'RE HERE.
SO'RE YOU.


I've been in here **before**--and this is my **least** favorite part.
It's easy to get so caught up in the system here that you just give up and get comfortable, waiting for the asses you want to kick to end up back inside.
HB 35
HB 35
It doesn't help that they don't know I'm **Catwoman,** actually.
Selina Kyle has sticky enough fingers on her own to have made a dozen enemies.
You'd think they'd leave me alone.
Felony murder.
I'm a killer.
But they have **debts** they want to take out of my bones.
And I'm feeling just **dark enough to let 'em try.**
After all, there aren't a lot of ways to get a little **peace and quiet** in this joint--
C'MON, GIRLS--
KRAK
--HERE'S THAT ATTENTION YOU ORDERED--
--you gotta **take your chances to show off** as **soon** as you can.
KYLE! STAND DOWN!
SOK
THUD
Gotta make sure I miss.
I'm looking for a **time-out,** not extra **charges.**
But I can't go down **easy.**
It's like **gambling--**gotta know when to **fold** so people don't think you're just a little **pussycat.**


SLAM
WE'LL CHECK IN ON YOU IN *72 HOURS,* KYLE.
WHY DON'T YOU DO SOME *THINKIN'* ABOUT HOW YOU *GOT* HERE?
...MAGGIE ALWAYS SAID TO PRAY AT TIMES LIKE THESE.
MY GOD...
I AM SORRY FOR HAVING OFFENDED THEE... *UGH.*
I DON'T REMEMBER THE REST.
IT HAS BEEN A *VERY* LONG TIME SINCE MY LAST CONFESSION.


I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY FOR MYSELF. I'M A SINNER *AND* A KILLER. I FAILED THE PEOPLE I WAS TRYING TO SAVE, AND I ASK FOR NO MERCY.
BUT PLEASE LOOK AFTER THE ONES I LOVE?
PLEASE MAKE SURE... SOMEONE FEEDS MY *CAT?*
MRRROWRRRW?
I know that sound.
One thing I know when I see one--
WHAP
...is a **forgery.**
...OH?
DUCHESS!
HOW DID YOU GET HERE?! WHY--
MRROOW!

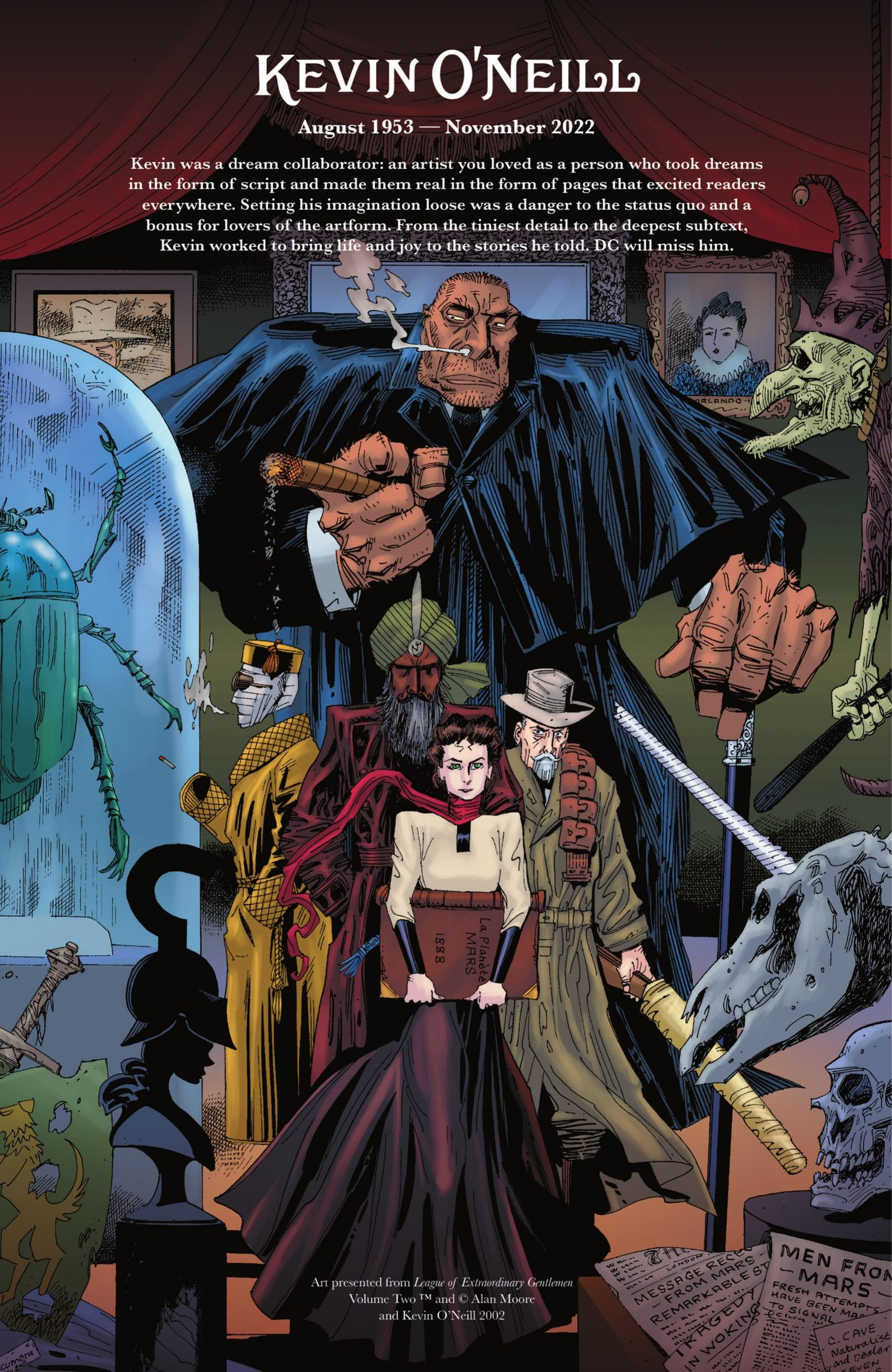

...YOU KNOW, VALMONT'S THE ONE THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER.
MRROOW!
YOU MUST MISS HIM--
"--AS MUCH AS I DO.
WE'RE GOING TO BE IN HERE A LITTLE WHILE, I THINK, SO LET'S GET COMFORTABLE.
AFTER ALL, WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT JAIL...
prrrr
"...THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE TO BE A CRIMINAL."

NEXT: THERE'S A NEW ALLEYCAT IN TOWN.

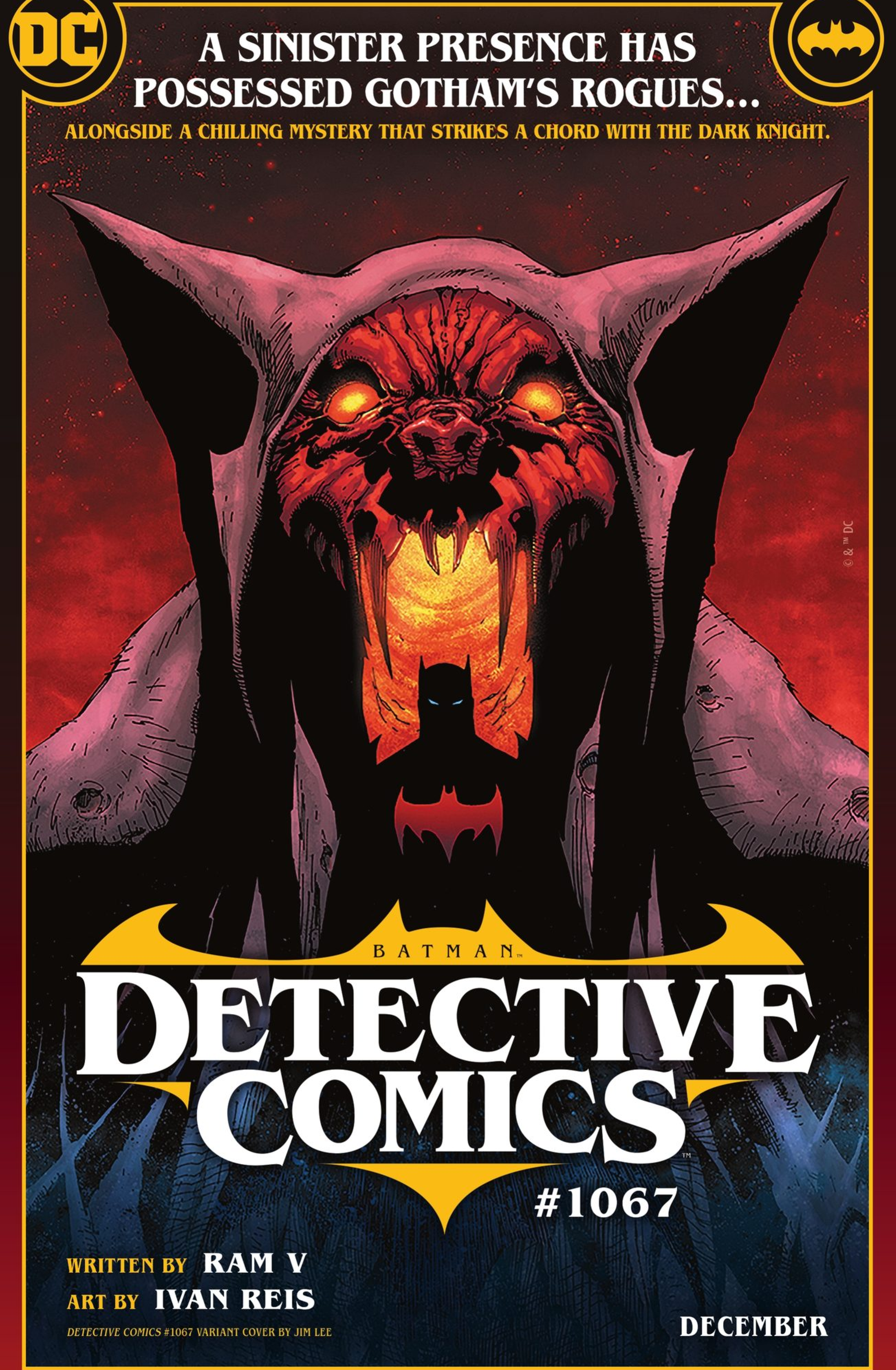
KEVIN O'NEILL

August 1953 — November 2022

Kevin was a dream collaborator: an artist you loved as a person who took dreams in the form of script and made them real in the form of pages that excited readers everywhere. Setting his imagination loose was a danger to the status quo and a bonus for lovers of the artform. From the tiniest detail to the deepest subtext, Kevin worked to bring life and joy to the stories he told. DC will miss him.


ORLANDO
La Planète MARS
1888
LONDON
MESSAGE RECE
FROM MARS
REMARKABLE ST
TRAGEDY
IN WOKING
MEN FROM
MARS
FRESH ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MA
TO SIGNAL
C. CAVE
Naturalist
and Dealer

Art presented from *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* Volume Two ™ and © Alan Moore and Kevin O'Neill 2002



A SINISTER PRESENCE HAS POSSESSED GOTHAM'S ROGUES...

ALONGSIDE A CHILLING MYSTERY THAT STRIKES A CHORD WITH THE DARK KNIGHT.

BATMAN™

DETECTIVE COMICS™

#1067

WRITTEN BY RAM V

ART BY IVAN REIS

DETECTIVE COMICS #1067 VARIANT COVER BY JIM LEE

DECEMBER

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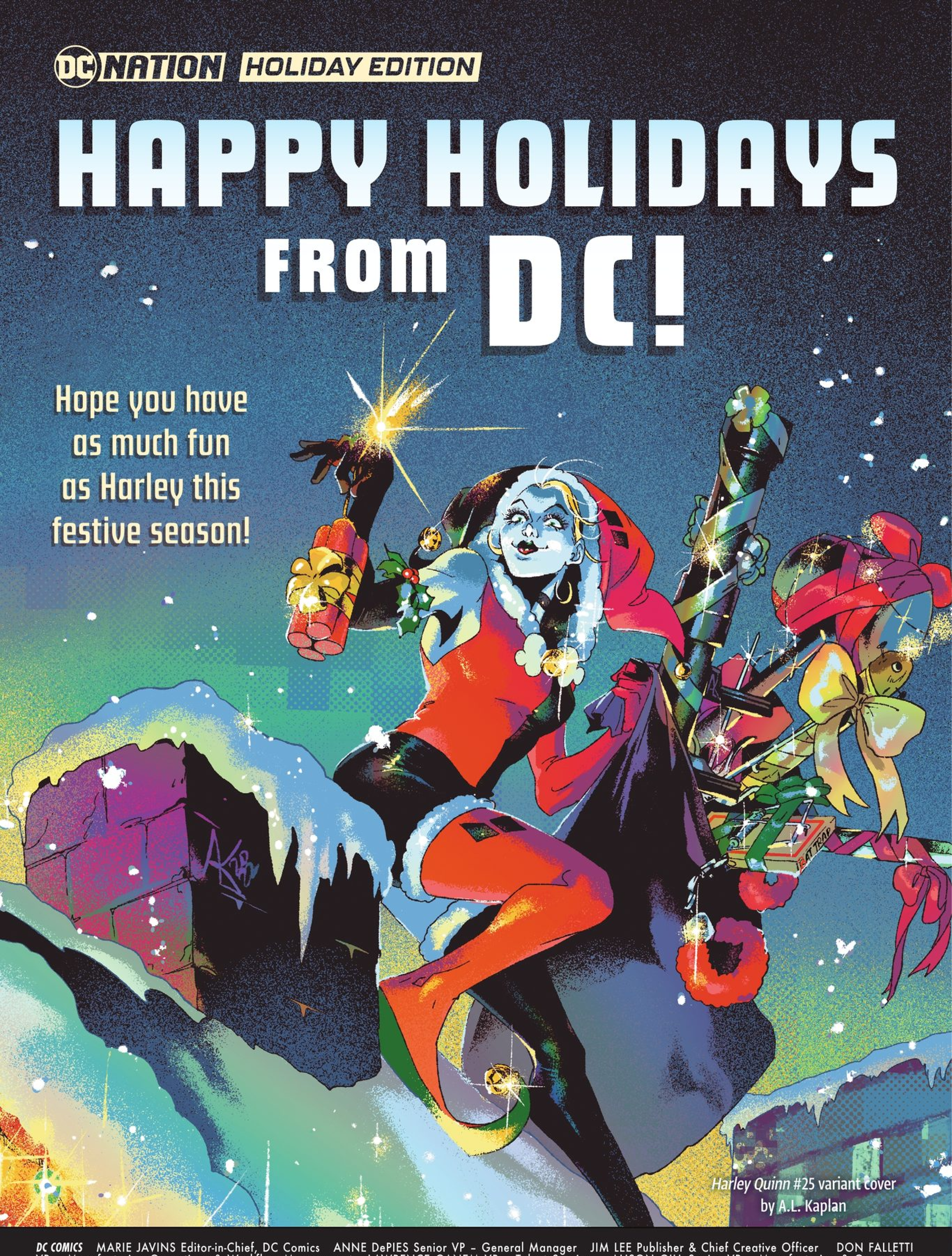
DC NATION
HOLIDAY EDITION
HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM DC!
Hope you have as much fun as Harley this festive season!
AK

Harley Quinn #25 variant cover
by A.L. Kaplan

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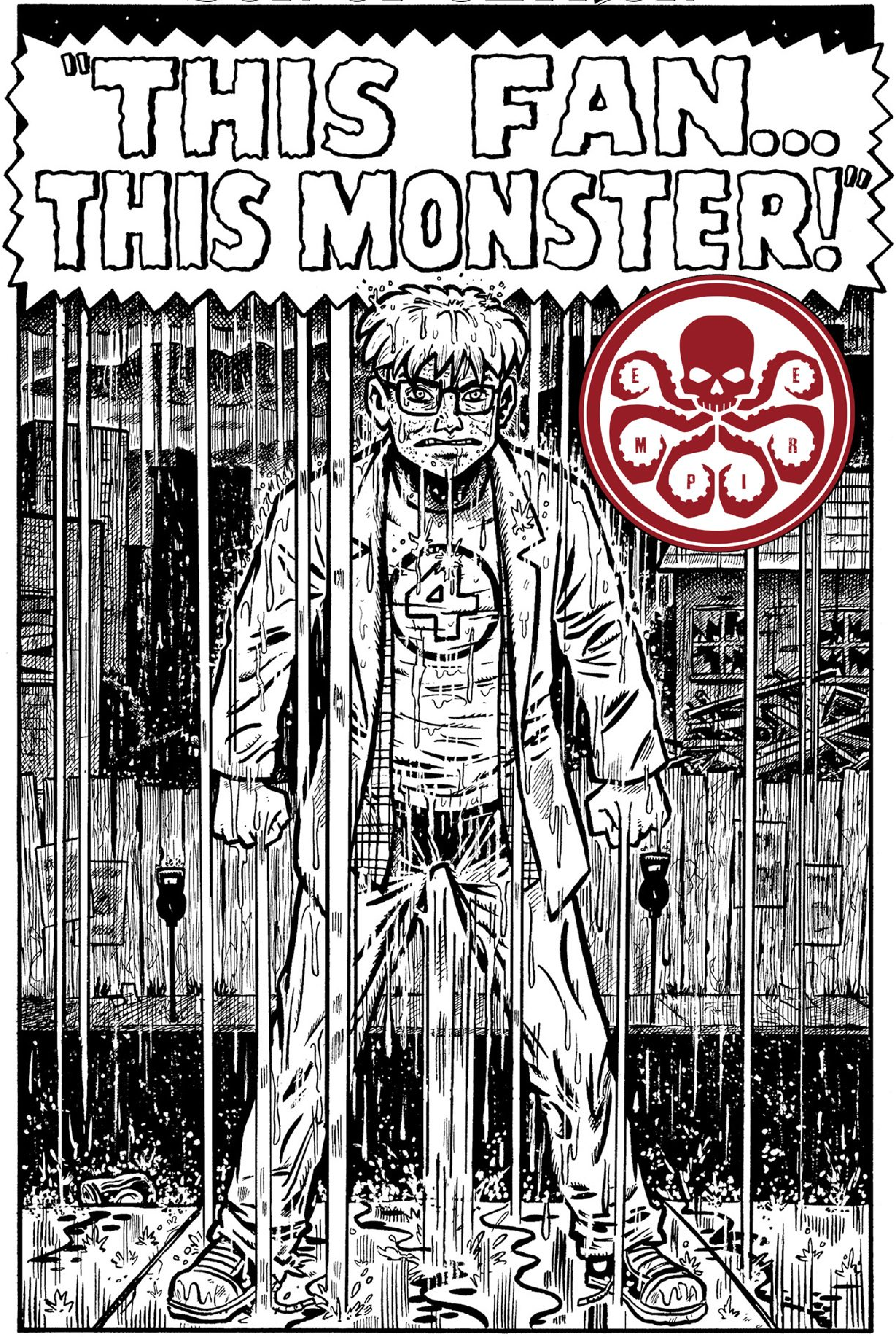
SON OF ULTRON


"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"